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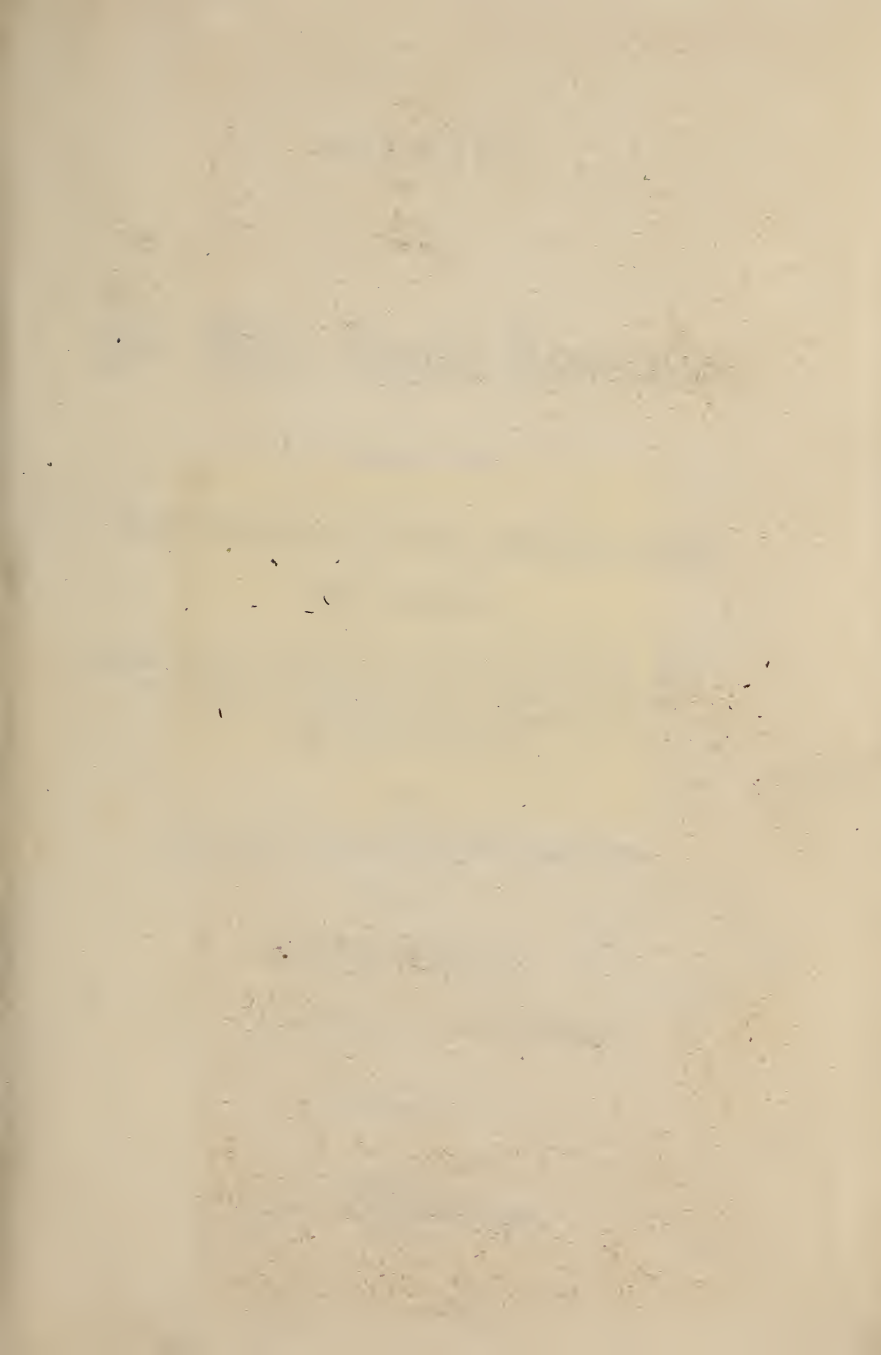
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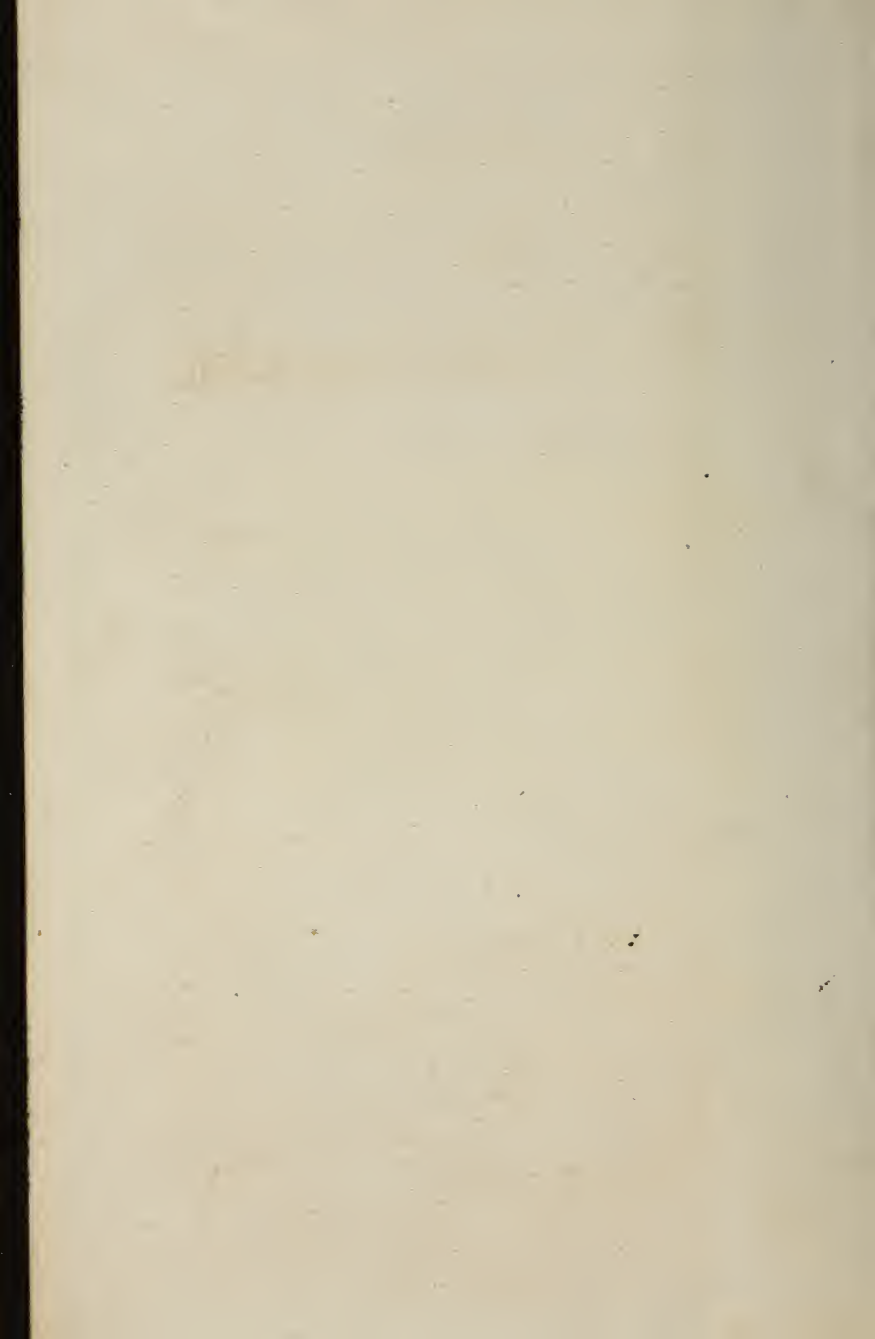
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Ms. No. 15/62

HISTORY

OF THE

Fox River Baptist Association,

FORMERLY THE

NORTHERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

OF ILLINOIS,

FROM ITS ORIGIN IN 1835, TO THE ANNIVERSARY IN 1858, WITH AN  
INTRODUCTION CONTAINING A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE SET-  
TLEMENT OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS, AND THE CHAR-  
ACTER OF THE IMMIGRANTS.

ALSO

COPIOUS STATISTICAL TABLES,

AND AN

APPENDIX.

BY JEREMY F. TOLMAN.

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## P R E F A C E .

Fully to know the real integrity and sterling worth of a man, it is necessary to inquire into his early history ; to ascertain the nature of his first training ; the opportunities he has enjoyed, and the influences with which he has been surrounded ; and as these are found to be favorable or adverse to the character he has established, and the achievements he has performed, so we estimate his actual excellence.

It is equally proper and equally necessary to a correct judgment, to obtain a knowledge of the surroundings of a church or other religious body. For there is a vast difference in the opportunity to increase and to do good, between the church that has, like the church at Philadelphia, "set before it an open door, that no man can shut"; and the one that "dwells even where Satan's seat is," as did the church at Pergamos. Hence, if the field was white for the harvest, if all things were conducive to the preaching of the gospel, and the establishment and growth of churches, when this Association was formed, we should look upon its character and the result of its labors in a far different light from what we should, if we knew the difficulties to be overcome were many and great, and that circumstances were much at variance with such an enterprise.

The *Introduction* is prepared with special reference to imparting the requisite information. It treats upon the settlement and state of the country and topics affecting the condition and prospects of the churches in Northern Illinois, comprising (according to the present division) sixteen of the most northern counties.

The writer has spared no reasonable pains to render this little manual as correct and acceptable as possible. He is not so vain as to imagine it faultless, either in matter or manner ; but having done what he could, he submits it to the candor of a generous public.

THE AUTHOR.

## CERTIFICATE OF COMMITTEE.

The undersigned, a Committee appointed by the Fox River Baptist Association to examine and report upon the expediency of publishing the following history, hereby express our unanimous opinion that if suitable arrangements can be made for meeting the expense it should be so published. We regard it as an important section of our denominational history in this State, and prepared with accuracy, care and skill. We should be glad, as we have no doubt all our churches would be, to see it in print.

L. D. BOON,

J. A. SMITH,

JAMES McCLELLAN.

CHICAGO, May 31st, 1859.



# HISTORY OF FOX RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

## INTRODUCTION.

*History and Historians—Divine Goodness—View of the Country—Its Settlement—Rapid Growth and Improvement—Time of Settlement—War—Character of Immigrants—Difficulties about Claims—Anecdotes—Sectarianism—National and Local Prejudices and Worldliness, hindrances to literary and religious Improvements.*

The past, with all its momentous changes, has ever been regarded as important, and richly deserving of record. Long before letters were invented, legendary tales and tradition were employed to perpetuate a knowledge of important events, and transmit the same to succeeding generations. Hieroglyphics were afterwards used for the same purpose. But all these forms of memorial have long since given place to the pen and the type, among civilized nations.

The introduction of modern alphabets, made writing less difficult, and thus increased the number of historians, and multiplied their works. The invention of the art of printing afforded facilities for publishing books before unknown. The thirst for knowledge produced by the Press and the Reformation, and the growing taste for history created by the latter, brought out a host of historians, rendered their works voluminous and scattered them broad-cast over the world.

Among the eminent authors of civil history, the names of Rollin and Gibbon justly deserve a place. But deeply interesting and important as the subjects are, of which such historians treat, there is yet another theme—another class of

historical facts, relating to the church of Christ, of far greater consequence and much more worthy the pen of the historian. Of the authors who have figured conspicuously in church history, may be reckoned Mosheim and Neander. But we have more illustrious names, more reliable authority, and far better specimens of history, both sacred and secular, furnished in the Bible, than in all other books besides. To say nothing of other portions of the Scriptures, we have here the Chronicles and the Acts of the Apostles. The former disclose the providence of God in directing and controlling the affairs of State. The latter manifest the riches of his grace in the triumphs of the Cross. Both are exceedingly interesting to all who delight in a knowledge of the past. But to the devout the latter ever has new and peculiar charms.

Although Northern Illinois has contributed largely to enrich the pages of history, her resources are not yet exhausted. It is, therefore, hoped that the present humble effort to select and preserve some gleanings and reminiscences of early days will not be deemed wholly unimportant, nor prove to be entirely destitute of interest.

In tracing the history of this section of country for the last quarter of a century, we are struck with the many unmistakable tokens of the Divine care and goodness towards it. Exceedingly great temporal prosperity has attended every branch of industry. The dilligent hand has made rich. All have received a most munificent reward for their labor. Spiritual blessings have also been shed upon its inhabitants, to an extent that calls loudly for gratitude and praise to Him who is the giver of every good and perfect gift.

To an early settler here, it could not fail to be specially gratifying to note down the astonishing changes and rapid improvements which have taken place around him.

Fancy yourself standing upon yonder swell of prairie twenty-five years ago, taking a survey of the country. It is June. Your senses are regaled with the beauty of the landscape, the singing of birds, the fragrance of the air, wafting grateful odors from myriads of flowers of every imaginable variety of size, shape and hue, blushing in the sun-beam, and opening their petals to drink in his vivifying rays. While gazing enraptured, you descry in the distance

a something moving slowly over the rich prairie, through the luxuriant herbage, and among the gorgeous flowers. As the object nears you, it proves to be a wagon drawn by a single team, containing a family and their earthly all. They are moving to the "Far West" in quest of a home. At length they stop and on the margin of a grove, rear their lone cabin, amid the chattering of birds—the bounding of deer—the hissing of serpents—and the barking of wolves. For all the native inhabitants of these wilds look upon the intruders with a jealous eye, and each in his own way forbids any encroachment upon his fondly cherished home, and his long undisputed domain. Look again and you see another, another, and yet another. From the same point of observation, look again, in mid-summer, in autumn, and in winter. And lo, fields are enclosed, waving with grain, and ripening for the former and the latter harvest! A school house is erected of rough logs! How admirable the finish! But what is it? Not Gothic, nor Corinthian, but *Fronterian* order. The cracks chinked and daubed with mud. The roof "cobbed off," a slab door on wooden hinges, and "puncheon" floor, the windows few and small, of glass or oiled paper, as circumstances allowed. The fixtures, all in perfect harmony with the building, so that an exquisite symmetry pervades the whole. This edifice "pays the double debt" of school room and house of worship. A school is opened; a church gathered; the word preached and the ordinances of the Gospel celebrated.

Look again after the lapse of five and twenty years; and what do you see? The waste has become a fruitful field, adorned with ornamental trees and shrubbery, waving in delightful beauty about commodious, and even elegant dwellings. Where was then a cabin is now a village or a city. In short you behold "a land flowing with milk and honey; abounding in spacious churches, academies, school houses, and other seminaries of learning. A land of industry and wealth, checkered with railroads, and having a gigantic canal. A land teeming with life and annually sending off surplus funds with hundreds, not to say thousands, of its sons, to people newer regions beyond. A land whose resources and improvements are so wonderful as to stagger belief and surpass the power of description.

The settlement of the country was scarcely commenced till the close of the Black Hawk war, August 1832. At that time there were small settlements at Chicago, Dixon, Ottawa, Joliet, and a few other places, where are now nine or ten populous cities, one of them containing above 100,000 inhabitants. Besides which, the skirts of the woodlands bordering upon the waters of the O'Plain, DuPage, Fox, Rock and their tributaries, were here and there dotted with the white man's cabin.

Galena was the first considerable settlement made in Northern Illinois. The immigrants were from Kentucky and the Southern States. They began to work the Lead mines in 1821. Some of the *miners* came from Southern portions of the State. Such usually spent the winter season at home, in preference to enduring the rigors of a Northern climate. On the opening of spring they returned to the mines at the time when suckers run; so that they might be said to ascend the Mississippi in company with the finny tribe. This circumstance gave rise to their being called *Suckers*, which soon became the cant name of the inhabitants of Illinois. In 1826 the village was laid out. In 1827 the county of which it is the capital was organized. It is thus described by a resident, in 1829, "Galena is the seat of justice of Jo Daviess county, and principal depot of mines. Contains about 550 houses and 800 inhabitants. The mail arrives weekly in stages from St. Louis and private hacks run from Galena to every part of the mining district." The county was named in honor of Gen. Joseph H. Daviess of Kentucky, who was killed in the battle of Tippecanoe in 1811. It comprised the present counties of Jo Daviess, Stephenson, Carroll, and parts of Winnebago, Ogle, Whiteside and Rock Island.

Galena was probably the only place in all Northern Illinois, that, in the *beginning* of 1832, was worthy the name of village, except in the Western use of the term. About this time villages were quickly made. A piece of government land was *claimed*—a public square and a score of village lots staked out—a cabin erected—a name given, and it was a village indeed! one of great promise—centrally located—equi-distant from such and such a (would be) immense emporium—directly on the great thoroughfare be-



tween those cities. But these day-dreams, marvelous as they appear, have already been realized to an extent so great, and in a manner so exact, as almost to entitle them to the name of prophecies. To these general results there were exceptions. For the wild speculations of '35 and '36 stuck many a stake for a village that never grew into one. The monetary crisis of '37 left not a few to rot down in solitude.

Of all the wild schemes projected for a village, there were probably none, that would compare in boldness of conception with the one undertaken by a Mr. Thurston. This gentleman laid out a village upon the summit of "Buffalo Rock," LaSalle Co. The lots were sold at public auction; and some of the choicest were struck off at \$350 each.

To express the peculiar excellence and eligibility of one's claim, there was a proverb so common among the early settlers as to be in the mouth of every one. "Timber and Prairie joining; right in the heart of the settlement." This was ordinarily iterated with complacency quite becoming; and occasionally with great exultation, when as yet there was scarce another cabin within sight.

Chicago was occupied as a military post at an early period. "On the surrender of Gen. Hull, at Detroit, in 1812, the garrison in the fort at Chicago resolved to abandon it. Shortly after they had left the fort they were attacked by the Indians. They defended themselves with bravery, and finally surrendered to a greatly superior force, with the promise that their lives should be spared. But, after delivering up their arms, several of the men were barbarously murdered. An Indian approached Mrs. Heald, who was of the party, with a tomahawk raised for her destruction; but she disarmed his ferocity, and insured his protection by looking him fully in the face and remarking with a smile, 'surely you will not kill a squaw.' This appeal to the magnanimity of an Indian warrior evinced great presence of mind, and knowledge of the Indian character."

From other, and reliable accounts of this sanguinary scene, we learn that Mrs. Heald was wounded during the engagement.\* But this does not, in the least, conflict with

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\* Universal Gazetteer, vol. 1, p. 617.



the foregoing statement. For there is nothing more common in savage warfare, than the inhuman massacre of the wounded, who unfortunately fall into their hands. Full proof of the truthfulness of this fact was given at the time, in the cold-blooded butchery of the wounded captives which ensued.

The Indians after plundering the fort destroyed it August 16th, 1812. It was rebuilt in 1816. In 1823 the town of Chicago contained eight or ten houses and fifty or sixty inhabitants. In 1830 it was laid out into lots. In 1831 it became the seat of justice for Cook Co. There were four arrivals, two brigs and two schooners during that year. After the Black Hawk war and near the close of 1832, it contained five small stores and 250 inhabitants. Since that time the growth of Chicago has been unparalleled. In 1835 there were two hundred and sixty-seven arrivals of brigs, ships and schooners, and nine steamboats, bringing 5,015 tons of merchandise, and 9,400 barrels of salt. The value of merchandise imported was \$2,500,000." It was then a snug, stirring village; but now a populous city of more than 100,000 inhabitants. The augmentation of its business and wealth, has more than kept pace with the astonishingly rapid increase of its population.

The counties of Cook and LaSalle were created and organized at the same time. It was then customary, in organizing a new county, to attach to it a portion of territory lying outside of its organic limits. By this means the three counties—Jo Daviess, Cook and LaSalle, exercised jurisdiction over the greatest portion of Northern Illinois, from 1831 to 1836, at which time other counties began to be formed from them.

The war of 1832 brought military forces and explorers from various places, who on their return home gave a glowing account of the goodly land. By this means the country was much better and more extensively known. The treaty with the Indians, and the tranquility which ensued, were favorable to its rapid settlement. A rush of immigrants to this land of overpowering enchantment, was made in 1833, when the choicest of the timber, and large tracts of

prairie were claimed. Many of the first claimants took large portions of land, and afterwards sold parcels of their claims to new settlers.

We will now give a rapid glance at the character of the immigrants, and the special circumstances surrounding them; so that a few of the many difficulties which attended the propagation of religion, the formation of churches and their subsequent prosperity may be seen.

The early settlements consisted of frontier rangers, shrewd speculators, broken merchants, disappointed politicians, young doctors, unpracticed and broken down lawyers, and second rate ministers; also a few of the better sort in each of the professions, together with enterprising farmers and mechanics. What if some of the professional men were unpolished, and what if they now and then marred the King's English? Taken as a whole, they were admirably adapted to their condition and work—just the men for the times.

The settlers, except at Galena, were principally from New York, New England, Ohio, Indiana and Pennsylvania. New York probably sent the largest delegation, New England next, and each succeeding State fewer in the order in which they are mentioned. Nearly every State in the Union was also represented, as well as many of the countries of Europe. All had come to seek their fortunes. The restraints which former society had thrown around them, were no longer felt. Each individual was a law unto himself. All were under a like necessity of forming a new character in this "Far off Land." For whatever a man's character had been, it availed him nothing here in a community of entire strangers. Letters of commendation, emanating from whatever source, were of little worth. Each succeeding immigrant was measured with a prairie reed and his worth estimated accordingly. To the new admeasurement he was obliged to submit, for there was no appeal.

Circumstances were every way calculated to develope the real character of all. And it is a painful fact, that in not a few instances there appeared to be but little regard for anything but to secure a large claim, become rich, and in all things have the pre-eminence.

No land was in market, nor even surveyed, except along the line of the contemplated canal. Hence disturbances

about claims, and especially about their boundaries, were of frequent occurrence. These contentions were always very annoying. Occasionally they assumed a fearful form, when club and mob-law was resorted to and applied with great severity, and all the glories of "SQUATTER SOVEREIGNTY" stood revealed! In process of time, a standing "COMMITTEE ON CLAIMS," was elected in many of the precincts. This was a judicious measure, and much good resulted from it.

The Hoosier† and the Buckeye‖ came with their loose notions of liberty, cherishing inveterate prejudice against Yankees‡. The Yorker was conscious of his superiority since he came from the "Empire State." The New Englander had his "Boston Notions." The clear headed Scotchman knew how they did up things in the "Ould Countrie." And the Englishman was not wholly free from a tinge of aristoc-

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† This name is given to the inhabitants of Indiana. The following anecdote is related, to account for its origin. "Many families settled on unsurveyed land in the western part of the State. When the surveyors came near a cabin, it was usual for them to cry out, in a drawing tone, "Who's here?" This was sometimes mistook for "Hoosier." It was quite natural to retort upon such an one: "You're a Hoosier." Thus the name was given to the squatters first, then to all the inhabitants of the State."

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‖ The name given to the inhabitants of Ohio, from the buckeye, a tree, which grows there in great abundance.

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‡ There has been much speculation about the origin of this popular name for the inhabitants of New England. *Heckewelder* supposes it to be "A corrupt pronunciation of the word *English*, by the native Indians of America, or more probably the *French* word *Anglais*."

One of the earliest histories of the Indian wars in New England has the following anecdote, "There was a hostile tribe of Indians by the name of the 'Yankoo tribe.' After suffering much from their depredations, the Colony of Massachusetts wholly exterminated them. The event (by genuine Yankee ingenuity,) was made the occasion of giving to the conquerors the name of the tribe they had destroyed. By anglicizing the word it became Yankee, and was soon extended to all the inhabitants of New England. Allowing this narrative to be true, it must have been one of the *petty* tribes, which was destroyed. For this name was not given to any of the principal tribes; "all of whom were subdivided into numerous small ones, each having its own sachem, who was in a great degree independent of the others. Thus, the Pokanokets were divided into nine tribes, each having its own chief, but all subject to one Grand Sachem." There have been scores of these *petty tribes*, whose names have never been recorded in any durable form, and are now utterly lost. Hence the mere silence of other historians about the Yankoo tribe is not sufficient to invalidate the foregoing chronicle.

racy. These several peculiarities were strongly marked and strikingly developed, especially on all *religious* subjects. For each religionist standing as the representative of his denomination, was exceedingly zealous to build up his own sect, and to do it precisely after the pattern he brought with him.

Sectarianism was now rampant, and like a powerful under current carried every thing in a contrary direction. The difficulties which it threw in the way of a faithful and successful discharge of ministerial duties were incredible to all who did not actually encounter them. They were more numerous than the plagues of Egypt. And so formidable, that, like the great mountain before Zerubbabel, it required Divine power to remove them. This was, now and then, mercifully vouchsafed, and a blessed revival of religion ensued; but as soon as the gracious work subsided, the Hydra reappeared to set things to rights, and with a zeal and sanctity peculiar to himself entered upon the important duty of dividing the spoil, which was ever done with characteristic magnanimity and impartiality.

Some few professors had designedly thrown off the restraints of religion, and left it behind, with the intention of returning for it when they were well settled, and had amassed a handsome property—sufficient for the maintenance of so expensive a guest. Alas, Alas! Had such persons ever read the following passage? “Godliness is profitable to all things, having promise of THE LIFE THAT NOW IS, and of that which is to come.” Others, having very different and far better intentions, either lost their religion in their perilous passage to this land of promise, or else were so deeply engulfed in worldliness soon after their arrival, as almost to extinguish the light that was in them. Nor were examples wanting, which were calculated to impress the minds of the observing with the idea, that individuals, not to say whole neighborhoods, imagined they had moved WEST of the Sabbath.

There were also formidable barriers to literary and religious improvement arising from local prejudice. Each settler, with few exceptions, had in his own opinion, by far the best site for a village or city. And such was the prevailing enthusiasm, as to induce nearly every one to believe his own



cabin was the nucleus, around which a dense population would shortly cluster. Hence in the early settlements there were nearly as many sites offered for school houses and church edifices as there were claims. And however fanciful, or even ludicrous it may seem to us now, it was no uncommon thing to be shown the site for a church which the generous donor had reserved, while as yet he had not even the color of title to the land ; but where, in imagination, he saw a stately edifice in progress of erection. Therefore but few were willing to contribute toward erecting a public building, except upon his own favorite spot. Moreover it was quite apparent that some persons were so entirely under the blinding influence of prejudice, as to refrain from religious meetings, when they were held at a place not of their own choosing, especially if it were one, which they apprehended, might thereby become more popular as a site for the erection of a church edifice, than the one they had selected. O man, how fallen !!

To overcome these prejudices, national, local, and sectarian ; to mould and cement into a friendly social compact such a heterogeneous mass, brought together with such rapidity, and under circumstances so peculiar ; to check the tide of worldliness which pervaded the entire community, threatening the destruction of everything good ; to gain the ear, and especially to win the heart to Christ, and thus prepare materials for God's spiritual building, required no little skill, and no small amount of labor. Although the task was arduous, if the ministry and the churches had labored with all fidelity to the Master—if their zeal and self-sacrifice, had been commensurate to the greatness and importance of the work in which they were engaged ; would not the result have been more signal and glorious ? And would not both laborers and churches have thereby been greatly multiplied and strengthened ? Nevertheless has not enough been done, by the blessing of God, to cheer the present laborers, and encourage them vigorously to pursue the work of faith and labor of love, till complete success shall crown their efforts, the topmost stone be laid, and this whole valley join in one simultaneous and triumphant shout—"Glory to the Lamb ?"



## CHAPTER FIRST.

*Preliminary remarks—Organization of the Association—Quarterly Meetings—Its Anniversaries till 1846, when measures were adopted for its division.*

Among the Baptist ministers who may be reckoned as pioneers in this part of the State, were Elders Freeman, Hubbard, Tolman, and Ambrose. All of whom except Brother Hubbard, were under appointment by the American Baptist Home Mission Society. Elder A. B. Freeman, was the first Baptist pastor in Northern Illinois, and probably the first Baptist preacher. He settled at Chicago in October 1833. He baptized the first person ever baptized on the Western shore of Lake Michigan, in April 1834. The church at O'Plain (now Hadley,) was gathered by him, and he assisted in its organization October 5th, 1833. The following week he organized one in Chicago. He preached at the recognition of the church at DuPage in August 1834. In December of the same year he preached at the recognition of the church at Long-Grove, (Bristol) and baptized Brother (now Elder) David Matlock, the first, no doubt, to whom that sacred and significant rite was administered in Fox River; but where many a happy convert has since been buried with Jesus Christ by baptism into death. After a brief illness Elder Freeman died the same month, greatly lamented.

In 1834 Elder A. B. Hubbard settled at DuPage, Elder J. F. Tolman at Long Grove, and Elder J. E. Ambrose at Plainfield; at each of which places Baptist churches were soon after formed. Each occupied a field where there had never before been Baptist preaching.

Between the death of Elder Freeman, December 1834, and the formation of the Association, September 1835—Elder I. T. Hinton had succeeded Brother Freeman in the pastorate of the church at Chicago. Elder J. G. Porter had become pastor of the church at O'Plain, (Hadley) Elder J. Beaver had immigrated to Long Grove, and the writer had left the latter place to obtain medical aid in New York, and did not return to his field of labor till the following spring.

The Northern, *now* Fox River Association, was organized by a convention held at DuPage, Cook Co., September 15th, 1835, from newly formed churches in the Northern part of Illinois; and intended also to embrace temporarily the North-western part of Indiana and Wisconsin Territory.

The introductory sermon was preached by Elder W. Southwood of Michigan City, from Titus 2: 13, 14. Br. Southwood was chosen Moderator and Brother B. H. Clift, of Chicago, Clerk. Brother I. T. Hinton, Corresponding Secretary.

The churches that united in forming the Association were the *four* following:

1. O'Plain, (now Hadley) J. G. Porter pastor; organized October 5th, 1833, with twelve members; two were added by baptism, and twenty-five by letter—three dismissed—one died—one excluded. Present number thirty-four.

The messengers from this church were, Elder Jonathan G. Porter, Abraham Snapp, and Cyrus Cross.

2. Chicago, I. T. Hinton, pastor ; organized October 12th, 1833, with fifteen members ; five added by baptism and thirty-four by letter—dismissed ten—died three—excluded one, leaving the number at that time forty. Messengers, Elder I. T. Hinton, J. T. Temple, S. Lathrop, and B. H. Clift.

3. 1st. DuPage, A. B. Hubbard, pastor ; organized Aug. 26th, 1834, with six members ; eight added by baptism—twenty by letter, making thirty-four. Messengers, Elder A. B. Hubbard, Abel E. Carpenter, Alfred Churchill, Hiram Warren, and A. M. Lull.

4. Plainfield, J. E. Ambrose, pastor ; organized on the principle of total abstinence, October 16th, 1834 with five members—four added by baptism—five by letter ; dismissed one—excluded one—present number twelve. Total membership of the four churches one hundred and twenty. These churches were all in Cook county, Illinois.

The *objects* of the Association were missionary, *within its own limits*, and throughout the world. The *means*,

1st. Itinerants, in connection with the American Baptist Home Mission Society.

2d. Sabbath Schools.

3d. Distribution of the Scriptures.

4th. Books, Tracts and Periodicals.

5th. Education.

6th. Foreign Missions.

The name given to the Body was "The Northern Baptist Association of Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin Territory. To manage the affairs of the Association, an Executive

Board of nine was chosen; three forming a quorum. It was the duty of the Board to meet quarterly. Such meetings were called quarterly meetings of the Association; and such they were. For, by the constitution, the pastors of the churches were members of the Association, ex-officio. Any ordained minister, in fellowship residing within its bounds and contributing to its funds was also a member; and the messengers of the churches remained members through the year. These meetings were open to all such persons, and they were entitled to advise and vote at the same.

After the adoption of a Constitution, the Convention being considered as dissolved, Brother Southwood then took the chair as Moderator of the Association. It was resolved that the delegates now elected by the churches to represent them at this Association be considered their representatives for the year ensuing, and that the officers now chosen by the Association be the officers of the same for the same period.

Resolutions were passed recommending to the churches the regular maintenance of public worship, the formation of Sabbath schools, and quarterly collections of money for missions and other benevolent objects.

The following resolution was also passed to provide a home for persons excluded from Baptist churches, as they sometimes were, for the crime of being members of a temperance or missionary society.

*“Resolved,* That this Association recommend to the churches, that in case any member shall have been excluded by any Baptist church, for attaching himself to any temperance, missionary, or other society for promoting the kingdom of Christ, after ascertaining the fact by proper corres-

pondence with the church, such member be, on application, received, whether the church excluding him consent to it or not."

The quarterly meetings were spent in devotional exercises, in receiving new churches into the Association, in the transaction of missionary business, in the free discussion of topics deemed important, in the pastors giving an account of their respective fields of labor, and in devising means to supply destitute places with preaching. The Board reported their proceedings to the annual meetings for approval and their report was published in the Minutes.

The first quarterly meeting was held at O'Plain, (now Hadley) in December 1835.

The second was held at Plainfield in March 1836. At this meeting the delegates from Long Grove, (Bristol Church) presented a Resolution, disapproving of "free or mixed communion," on the ground of its being unscriptural. The design of it was to snip that doctrine in the bud, and thereby prevent farther dissemination of it by Elder Hinton, who advocated that practice. The Resolution was opposed by Elder Hinton. He had adopted the peculiar views of Robert Hall on the subject of communion. He was an Englishman, possessing a well endowed and cultivated mind, was an acceptable preacher and successful pastor. After discussing the resolution, it was lost. The Moderator, Elder Hubbard, gave the casting vote against its adoption; not, however, because he was favorable to free communion, but merely from motives of policy. Thus began a contention about communion, which issued in the withdrawal of Elder J. Beaver and several of his family connections, from both the church and the Association. They united together in forming a church at Little Rock, about ten miles distant



from the one they left. The new church never received a formal fellowship from other churches; nor did it ever join an Association. It was supplied with the ministry of Bro. Beaver. Several persons were added to it by baptism. It has become extinct. Elder Beaver and some other of the members returned to the Bristol church.

For the sake of connecting what we have to say on this subject, dates are anticipated. At a quarterly meeting at Big Woods, (Batavia) in June 1837, after some debate on free communion, advocated by Brother Hinton, it was distinctly stated to him, that although there would be no direct interference with his pastoral relation with the church at Chicago; yet he himself could not remain a member of the Association, unless he entirely desisted from advocating such practice at the meetings of the body. Finding the brethren firm, and determined to maintain their position, he yielded, and gave assurance of silence on the subject at Associational meetings in the future. The writer never after heard him even allude to the subject in public and but once in private.

1836.

The first annual meeting was held at Chicago, September 21st and 22d. Introductory sermon by Professor Whitman, from 1 Cor. 15, 53. Brother I. Wilson Moderator and Elder A. B. Hubbard, Clerk.

*Seven* new churches were received during the year, five of which joined at the quarterly meetings:

*Long Grove*, (Bristol) organized November 15th, 1834, with six members—twenty-three added by letter. Total twenty-nine.

*Little Woods*, afterwards Charleston, but now St. Charles,

organized October 16th, 1835, with ten members—twelve added by letter. Total, when added to the Association, twenty-two.

*Vermillionville*, organized 1835 with fifteen members—two baptized—and two dismissed. Total fifteen.

*Jackson's Grove*, organized 1835 with five five members—one baptized. Total six.

*Big Woods*, now Batavia, organized June 16th 1836, with thirteen members—one died. Total twelve.

*Belvidere*, organized July 31st, 1836, with thirteen members.

2d. *DuPage*, Warrenville, organized 1836 with twenty-two members.

Four additional ministers—Elder's D. W. Elmore, St. Charles—J. S. King and S. S. Whitman, Belvidere, and T. Powell Vermillionville, had joined the Association.

The Executive Board entered upon their work, and prosecuted it with the zeal and fidelity, becoming the importance of the interests committed to their charge. Their first annual report is too lengthy for insertion here. But an important object they always had in view—one ever cherished with the most lively interest by the entire body, cannot be better presented, than it is in the following quotation from it.

“Your Board have been most anxious to secure the aid of a faithful minister to itinerate among the numerous settlements where members of our denomination are scattered abroad, that they may at least be occasionally fed with the bread of life, and may, as soon as circumstances justify, be formed into churches; but they regret to state that although the Home Missionary Society has, with a liberality for which

we would be grateful, expressed a willingness to concur with your Association in sustaining such itinerant, that no minister has yet been found ready to undertake this most important work. The Board have reason to hope, however, that by the opening of next spring, a minister from the East, peculiarly suited, may be induced to undertake the mission, and would urge upon the churches the most liberal efforts to sustain him."

"Under these circumstances, your Board have felt it their duty to urge, as earnestly as possible, the stated pastors of your body to take each of them a share in this arduous, but most important sphere of exertion; and they are happy to state that to some extent they have succeeded."

The Board did not obtain the minister they had in view. And it is worthy of special notice, that notwithstanding the most strenuous efforts were made, year after year, to obtain an itinerant minister, yet the object was never realized to any considerable extent.

At a quarterly meeting the following June, Elder R. B. Ashley, recently from the State of New York, accepted an appointment to itinerate such portion of the time as could be spared from other engagements at one dollar per day. His labors were very acceptable wherever he went. They were specially blessed to the enlargement of the 2nd Du Page, now Warrenville church; and to the gathering of the church at Joliet. At each of these places he baptized several persons.

"The report on the state of the churches" closes thus:

"This epitome of the state, and progress of the cause of Christ within our limits, may well excite the devout exclamation, 'What hath God wrought?' Twelve months ago,

this body was constituted of four churches, containing one hundred and twenty members. We have now the grateful duty to report eleven churches and two hundred and eighty-eight members; twenty-three have been baptized, while only one has been excluded, and two removed by death. The sums contributed to the various objects recommended by the Association, amount to \$197."

1837.

We have failed to obtain the minutes of this session. The Association in 1836, voted "That the next annual meeting be held at Plainfield, the first Wednesday in October, Elder Powell to preach—Elder Porter his substitute."

At this session, or at some of the quarterly meetings *four* new churches were received, all of which were organized in 1837; Upper O'Plain ten members; Joliet fourteen members—two of whom had been baptized; Prophet's Town, twelve members, and Rochester ten members. Elders R. B. Ashley and Joel Wheeler were added to the ministry—Brother Wheeler was Clerk and Deacon Isaac Wilson Moderator.

1838.

The third annual meeting was held at Warrenville. Introductory sermon by Elder Ashley; Elder J. F. Tolman, Moderator; Brother B. H. Clift, Clerk.

*Four* new churches were added—Elgin, thirteen members, J. E. Ambrose minister; McHenry, twenty members, J. Wheeler minister; Dundee and Adams, now Dundee, thirteen members, D. W. Elmore minister; and Lake Zurich, fourteen members. *One* new minister, D. T. Graves.

The church at Rochester was dismissed to form a part of the Wisconsin Association. The church at Long Grove having changed its place of meeting to Bristol, took the

name of that village. The name of Little Woods church was changed to Charlerton, now St. Charles. Eighteen churches, eight ministers, thirty-four baptized, and four hundred and fifty members were reported.

This appears to have been a year of declension in most of the churches. Only four of them had accessions by baptism. In view of such spiritual dearth, a resolution was passed recommending to each of the churches composing the Association to hold at least one *special* meeting in the year to promote the cause of God; and that the pastors make such arrangements, as to have not less than two ministers present during the whole time of its continuance.

To what extent the churches complied with the recommendation, we are unable to state. But revivals of religion were enjoyed in nearly all the churches the ensuing year; and baptisms were multiplied four fold.

A report on the state of the colored population was adopted; and several appropriate resolutions were passed on the same subject. One of these is copied for its peculiar excellence.

“*Resolved*, That the members of the churches comprising this Association, are recommended and earnestly urged, to make the condition of the brethren in bonds the subject of frequent and fervent prayer to Him who is head over all things to the church.”

If Bunyan's weapon, “ALL PRAYER,” more frequently took the place of spirited resolutions and inflammatory speeches, much more good would be accomplished by the church.

The report on the state of the churches, says: “One serious matter we have to regret, that the usual aid from the various churches toward the benevolent objects of the



day, has not this year been supplied. This deficiency is mostly to be attributed to the scarcity of money, and a general depression in mercantile transactions; we hope, however, that yet some signal aid will be afforded, and that the several churches and individuals will be zealous in *doing what they can.*"

"At the close of a solemn address from the words, 'He who was rich, &c.,' by Elder Tolman, and a well directed appeal to the consciences of the congregation, a collection was taken up amounting to \$31,25 for Home and Foreign Missions."

Taking all the circumstances into the account, the poverty of the people, the scarcity of money, the smallness of the congregation, convened in a school-house of no ample dimensions, it was the most liberal donation ever made by the Association.

1839.

The fourth annual meeting was held at Elgin, October 4th and 5th. Elder O. C. Comstock, of Michigan, preached the introductory sermon. Elder R. B. Ashley was Moderator, and Elder Hubbard, Clerk.

*Two* churches were added to the body. Fairfield, thirteen members, J. W. Elmore, minister; and Crystal Lake, seventeen members, J. Wheeler, minister. *Two* new pastors, L. B. King, 1st DuPage, and A. W. Button, O'Plain, now Hadley. Total, eighteen churches, twelve ministers, one hundred and thirty-six baptized, and six hundred and fifty-six members. Prophets' Town church dropped.

This session was rendered uncommonly interesting and profitable, by the presence of a large number of visiting brethren, among whom were O. C. Comstock, from Michi-

gan Baptist Convention; A. Bennet, Agent of the Baptist Society for Foreign Missions; and J. M. Peck, from the Baptist Convention of Illinois, each of whom preached, and with other visiting brethren, contributed largely to the interest of the meeting.

The glad tidings of revivals, brought by the letters and delegates from almost every church in the Association occasioned great joy, as may be seen by the following extract from their corresponding letter :

“DEAR BRETHREN :—It is with devout gratitude to the Giver of every good gift, that we are permitted in this, our annual correspondence with you, to call upon you to rejoice with them that rejoice. Many of our churches have, during the past year, experienced seasons of refreshing from the presence of the Lord, and the accessions to our numbers have greatly exceeded those of any former year, since the organization of our body. Truly, it is the Lord’s work, and to Him be all the praise.”

But notwithstanding these precious revivals, the report of the committee on Home Missions, reveals a deplorable apathy, and culpable neglect of religious duties on the part of many of the immigrants. It is also significant of deep solicitude and Christian sympathy for them. The report says :

“An efficient missionary is now needed to itinerate through the limits of this Association, and probably in no region in the whole State is such a missionary more necessary, than on the Rock River and its vicinity. Members of different churches in the East are thronging this section of country, and they too frequently carry their letters in their pockets till both their letters and their Christian characters are nearly or quite worn out. There needs some man of God to cir-

culate through this country, and establish churches where they are needed, and gather the scattered and wandering sheep into their proper folds."

"It is believed the time has now come when this cause should be sustained by ourselves without much, if any, aid from abroad. God has cast our lines in pleasant places, we have a goodly heritage; and are imperiously urged to do more for God, who has done so much for us."

1840.

The fifth annual meeting was held at Bristol, October 7th and 8th. Introductory sermon by Elder Joel Wheeler, from Heb. 12, 14. Elder S. Knapp, Moderator; Brother L. D. Boone, Clerk.

Belvidere church was dismissed to Rock River Association. The church at Jackson's Grove having become extinct, was dropped. *Two* new pastors: S. Knapp, Joliet, and J. Sears, Lake Zurich. Total, sixteen churches, eleven ministers, seventy-one baptized, and six hundred and thirty-two members. The time of holding the annual meeting was changed to the first Wednesday in June.

Brother Boone, from the committee on the subject of a North-Western Convention, reported as follows:

"That in view of the rapid extension of settlements in the northern part of our State, and in the Territories of Wisconsin and Iowa, and the increasing demand for organic and efficient action on the part of our denomination, and the impracticability (from the great length of our State) of anything like efficient co-operation with our esteemed brethren of the south, we recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

"*Resolved*, That a convention of brethren from northern Illinois, Wisconsin and Iowa, be held in Chicago on the first

Wednesday in January, 1841, at ten o'clock A. M., for the formation of a Northern Convention, and that the brethren be requested to come prepared, not only to organize said convention, but to enter at once upon such business as shall be thought necessary for the advancement of the Kingdom of our dear Redeemer in this important region."

The report was adopted and the clerk of the Association ordered to give notice through the *B. B. and Pioneer*, and the *Baptist Register*, of the time and place of holding said convention.

The body organized by the proposed convention, was so entirely identified with this Association in its objects, interests, and field of labor, as to render it necessary to give some account of it.

Pursuant to notice given in the manner required by the foregoing resolution, "A convention was held at Chicago on the sixth of January, 1841, and the North-Western Baptist Convention was provisionally organized, a constitution adopted, setting forth the prominent object of the Convention to be the raising of funds to be expended in the home field, in connection with the B. H. M. Society, and to do the most that possibly can be done for Christ's cause in the North-West."

The convention recommended increasing the funds of the Depository already established at Chicago by the Fox River Association, where the books and tracts of the A. B. P. Society were kept. Also the establishing of a semi-monthly periodical as soon as sufficient means could be raised to defray the expenses.

1841.

The sixth annual meeting was held at Plainfield, June 2d and 3d. Introductory sermon by Brother Ambrose, from



Luke 5 : 36 to 39. Brother Isaac Wilson, Moderator; and Brother E. B. Hulbert, Clerk.

*Three* churches joined at this session; all organized during the year. North-East, twenty-one members, two of whom had been baptized; A. W. Button, minister. Paw Paw Grove; fourteen members, two baptisms; C. Harding, minister. Bloomingdale; eleven baptized; total, twenty-three; J. Wheeler, minister. *One* new pastor, C. Harding. The name of Big Woods church was altered to Batavia.

Several of the churches had enjoyed revivals. Total, nineteen churches, ten ministers, seventy-nine baptisms, and seven hundred and seventy-one members.

1842.

The *seventh* anniversary was held at Warrenville, June 1st, 2d and 3d. Introductory sermon by Brother S. Knapp, from Mat. 3 : 10. Brother Wilson, Moderator, and L. D. Boone, Clerk.

*One* new church received—*Union Ridge*, fourteen members.

*Three* new pastors, C. Barnes, McHenry; A. Pease, Crystal Lake; and J. S. King, Fairfield. Minutes report twenty churches, eleven ministers, forty-one baptisms and eight hundred and fifty-four members.

The following record is made of the decease of Brother C. G. Wheeler.

"In view of the afflictive dispensation of the Providence of God, which has during the past year, removed from us our dear Brother C. G. Wheeler to his reward in heaven."

"*Resolved*, That the cause of God has lost a faithful and efficient laborer; and that we feel solemnly admonished to increased fidelity. (The resolution was adopted unanimously by rising.)"



Deacon I. Wilson was appointed *Director* in the Convention, twenty delegates were also appointed to that body.

The following clause is contained in their Corresponding Letter. "We especially request the co-operation of Associations contiguous to us, in carrying forward the plan of the "*North-Western Convention*."

"We would also invite your aid in sustaining the contemplated paper, the importance of which we doubt not, will be duly appreciated."

In consequence of the organization of the North-Western Convention, (January 1841) important changes were made in the Association at this session. Quarterly meetings of the body was discontinued. Missionary business was transferred from the Executive Board to the N. W. Convention; the funds of the Association were ordered to be paid over to the Treasurer of that body; and further to aid it, "a collection and subscription amounting to \$70.37 were taken up." For the better understanding of this subject, the following extracts are taken from the minutes of the Association:

"The Committee to which was referred the business matters contained in the letters from the churches, beg leave to report,

"That in reference to the subject (alluded to in the Chicago letter) of dispensing with the Executive Board of the Association, and transferring its business to the N. W. Convention, your committee is of opinion that the change ought to be made.

"With reference to the subject of a Paper, referred to in the same letter, the committee feel that they cannot too strongly urge the importance of making an effort to establish and sustain a paper upon the plan heretofore proposed

by the N. W. Convention, and would therefore advise the passage of the following resolution,

“*Resolved*, That the churches composing this Association be requested to forward their subscriptions to the approaching session of the Convention, in order that the question in regard to the propriety of establishing said paper may be decided at that time.”

#### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS.

“Whereas, it is evident, that in the Providence of God, the time is come, in which he is calling upon this body to make more vigorous efforts for the extension of His Kingdom in this region; and inasmuch as it is necessary to have a system adequate to the amount of work to be accomplished,

“Therefore, *Resolved*, That we rejoice in the formation of the North-Western Baptist Convention, and most heartily recommend it to the co-operation of all the churches of this Association, for their prayers and efforts.”

“*Resolved*, That the N. W. Convention be requested to take into consideration the propriety of appointing an efficient agent to labor within its bounds during the ensuing year.

“*Resolved*, That the delegates present be requested to pledge the number of subscribers for which they will be responsible for the *North-Western Baptist*.” “Whereupon pledges were made for 203 copies.”

“*Resolved*, That *Saturday, the 2d day of July next*, be appointed as a day of fasting and prayer, for the prosperity of Zion; and for the blessing of God upon the action of the Convention, which will assemble at Elgin the Wednesday following.”

We have before stated, that the Association and Convention were so identified as to render it necessary, in writing a history of the former, to give some account of the latter. Therefore we shall give to the reader a description of the meeting to which reference is had in the last resolution.

An adjourned meeting of the Convention was held at Elgin, July 6th, 1842. A prospectus for a semi-monthly paper, "The North-Western Baptist," was presented. The prospectus was silent on slavery; and it was understood at the time, the paper was to take neutral ground on that subject. This condition was exceedingly unsatisfactory to several present; whereupon a spirited debate ensued. And, though it was conducted, in general, in a kind and Christian spirit; and though such discussions are sometimes necessary and unavoidable, yet at the time of their occurrence, they are exceedingly unpleasant; and often apparently unprofitable, and even mischievous. But dark and portentous as such things appear for the time, yet they have more than one aspect; and like the wondrous cloud that led the Hebrews through the wilderness, they not unfrequently disclose a brighter side. This discussion tended, no doubt, in some measure to solve the great problem of human rights and personal freedom, and to contribute its mite towards that unanimity of sentiment that now so happily pervades nearly the whole Baptist denomination at the North on the subject of slavery. "When there had been no small dissension and disputation," a proposition was made to publish the paper, neutral on slavery; *provided* its columns were open to publish Anti-slavery Meetings; and *provided* also, that individuals would pledge themselves to pay all deficiency of expense that might occur from publishing the paper; so that *no* debt should accumulate against the Convention on that account. These conditions were promptly met, and the requisite pledges given. Whereupon a vote to publish the "North-Western Baptist," was carried almost unanimously. Notwithstanding the apparent unanimity at the time, the paper

was not well sustained. For it was not possible to conduct a periodical at that time, so as to give entire, or even general satisfaction to the denomination, owing to the contrariety of opinion concerning slavery; or more properly, about the manner of treating that evil. All would not agree to have the subject agitated at all. Nor would all agree to let it alone. And of those who were favorable to a discussion of it, scarcely two were agreed as to the best method of doing it. Hence from the first, the "*Baptist*" had its friends and its foes. And like a ship tempest-tost with Charybdis and Sylla on either hand, it was in constant jeopardy. It maintained a precarious existence less than three years, when its affairs were wound up. But from its ashes arose the "*Western Christian*" and the "*Western Star*." As the latter luminary lingered along the western horizon about to disappear, it lighted the pathway of a weekly—the "*Watchman of the Prairies*," to take his position, amid difficulties and discouragements. And, having faithfully watched over the interests of Zion for about five years, he languished; but was soon resuscitated, and came forth in a new dress, under the name of the present deservedly popular weekly—the "*Christian Times*." The "*Western Christian*" was removed to New York, and united with the "*Christian Contributor*," and took the name of the "*American Baptist*."

1843.

The eighth annual meeting of the Association was held at Batavia, June 7th and 8th. Opening sermon by Elder R. B. Ashley, from John 18: 36. Elder J. E. Ambrose, Moderator, and L. D. Boone, Clerk.

Three churches were received—Upper Somonauk, now *Sandwich*, organized June 3d, 1843, with seven members.



*Montelona*, organized in 1842, with thirteen members; six baptized, six received by letter, one died—Total twenty-four.

*Blackberry*, now Kaneville, with fifteen members, five of whom had been baptized.

The names of *four* new pastors appear in the minutes—C. B. Smith, Chicago; J. Scofield, Bristol; A. J. Joslyn, Warrenville; S. Poley, Blackberry.

Brother Smith left the Presbyterians, and was ordained at Chicago in 1842. Brother Joslyn was ordained at Warrenville, October, 1842. Twenty-two churches, ten ministers, three hundred and fifty-four baptisms, and one thousand three hundred and fourteen members.

The name of the Second DuPage church was changed to Warrenville. McHenry church was ordered to be dropped from the minutes.

This year is rendered memorable for two reasons; the very unusual severity of the winter, with sleighing which lasted from November to April, with but a few days interruption; and especially by the powerful revivals of religion enjoyed in most of the churches belonging to the body. In no one year in the whole history of this Association, until 1858, have there been so large accessions to the churches by baptism as there were during this year.

There were only ten ministers to twenty-two churches; but their labors were so divided among them as to furnish seventeen of the churches with stated preaching; all of which received additions by baptism. The other five were unsupplied with preaching and unblessed with revivals. Thus was verified that passage of scripture: "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."



"The Prudential Committee reported the following resolutions, which were adopted."

"*Resolved*, That in view of the afflictive dispensation of Divine Providence in removing from us our dear Brother Charles Harding to his reward above, the cause of Christ has lost a faithful and efficient minister, and we are admonished to be always ready and waiting."

"*Resolved*, That the condition of our Brethren in Denmark, fined and imprisoned and bereft of their religious rights by their Pedit-baptist persecutors, appeals loudly and earnestly to our sympathies, for our prayers and our funds to assist them in resisting the encroachments on their just rights; and in establishing religious toleration to all the inhabitants of that land."

"Upon the presentation of the last resolution, Brother Boone, was called upon to give such information as he was in possession of in relation to the condition of our brethren in Denmark, which he did; and was followed in an able and interesting manner, by Brother Tolman, upon the same subject, after which the resolution was adopted, and Brother Tolman called upon to lead in prayer to the great Head of the Church, in behalf of our afflicted and persecuted brethren. At the close of the prayer, Brother Joslyn said, that inasmuch as he believed in prayer and alms going together, he moved that a collection be taken up for the relief of the brethren in Denmark, which was carried; a collection amounting to \$13.06 was taken up."

"On motion of Brother Boone, it was

"*Resolved*, That the churches within the bounds of this Association, be requested to take up collections for the widow of our deceased Brother, Charles Harding; and forward the same to the next meeting of the North-Western Convention." The total thus collected and paid over was \$36.15.

*“Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to devise some plan relative to sustaining the widows of deceased ministers.*

The resolution was carried into effect. The committee reported a plan for raising,

“A fund to be sacredly devoted to the relief of superannuated Baptist ministers; and widows and orphans of deceased Baptist ministers.” The plan was adopted by the Association. It, however, had so little practical effect in raising funds, that in 1845, the body substituted a collection for the former method of raising money; and ordered it to be taken annually immediately after the introductory sermon. But no alterations have been made relative to the objects for which the funds are to be appropriated. Yet, as this is now uniformly called the “Widows’ and Orphans’ Fund,” it is not improbable that many of our brethren do not know that it was equally designed for the relief of superannuated ministers.

1844.

The ninth anniversary meeting of the Association was held with the first Baptist Church, Chicago, June 5th and 6th.

Opening sermon by Elder A. W. Button, from I Tim. 1 : 11. Elder Tolman, Moderator; L. D. Boone, Clerk.

*Seven* new churches were added to the Association at this session, viz :

*Long Grove*, (Pavilion). This church was organized on the 5th of the preceding May, with forty-four members; dismissed from Bristol church for that purpose. But before joining the Association, ten were added by letter and twelve by baptism, making sixty-six members; J. F. Tolman, minister.

*Newark*, was organized March 16th, 1844—thirteen members. The alterations of membership between this time and June 5th were, added by baptism four, by letter seven, one death. Total number of members twenty-three, gathered by Brother M. Edwards, licentiate. He was ordained at Newark soon after the church was organized.

*Tabernacle*, at Chicago. It was constituted in August 1843, of sixty-two members dismissed from the First Baptist Church, for that purpose. After their organization they received forty-two by letter, by baptism fourteen; dismissed eight, excluded one, died one. Number when received into the Association, 108.

*East Prairie*, gathered by Elder E. H. Clift; fourteen members.

*Aurora*, twenty-three members; Elder J. Blake, minister, who preaches to the church half of the time.

*Naperville*—This church was constituted through the instrumentality of Brother Morgan Edwards, in June, 1843, with six members. Under the pastoral care of Elder R. B. Ashley, their number increased to twenty-nine, before uniting with the Association; eight of whom he baptized.

*Lockport*, was constituted in March 1844, of twenty-one members; four were added by baptism and nine by letter, one died, making the number twenty-three. Elder Solomon Knapp, pastor.

Six new pastors were joyfully received this year. Elder E. H. Hamlin, Chicago; M. L. Wisner, St. Charles; P. Freeman, Dundee; J. Blake, Fairfield; N. Warriner, Paw Paw Grove, and M. Edwards, Newark.

The minutes report twenty-nine churches, sixteen ministers, 107 baptisms (when corrected) and 1,542 members.

The Prudential Committee reported the following resolution, which was adopted.

*“Resolved*, That we recommend the appointment of a Committee of three, whose duty it shall be to take measures for procuring a depository of the A. B. Pub. and S. S. Society, within the bounds of Northern Illinois Association, and that books to the amount of \$200, shall be procured, and that Brother Boone, Hoard and Hays, be such committee.”

“On motion of Brother Hoard it was,

*“Resolved*, That the place of the Depository be Chicago, and that the Committee appoint a Depository.”

“Upon a proposition of Brother J. McClellan, Jr., to introduce a resolution (upon the subject of slavery) not reported by the Prudential Committee, a constitutional question arose, viz: Whether a member could present business for the action of the Association, which had not been presented to the Prudential Committee, which elicited considerable discussion. After which the Moderator decided the resolution to be in order. Brother Boone, in order to settle the question forever, appealed from the decision of the Chair. Whereupon, the house sustained the decision unanimously. The resolution was then presented, discussed, and the following substitute, presented by Brother Joslyn finally adopted:”

“Whereas, the question, ‘Ought slaveholders to be employed as Missionaries?’ is now deeply agitating the A. B. H. M. Society, to which we through the N. W. Convention are auxiliary, therefore

*“Resolved*, That we entirely disapprove of the employment of slaveholding Missionaries, as repugnant to the spirit of the age, of Missions, and of the Gospel.”

In their corresponding letter they say, “God has blessed us with his presence. An unusual degree of harmony and



brotherly love has marked the deliberations of our session. The interest of the meeting was increased by the accession of so many new churches, which had sprung up within our borders; and by the presence of an unusually large number of visiting brethren, several of whom were from New York and New Hampshire."

1845.

The tenth anniversary was held at Elgin, June 4th and 5th.

Elder E. H. Hamlin of Chicago, delivered the introductory sermon from 1 Tim. 3: 15. Brother J. McClellan, Jr., Moderator, and Elder S. Carr, Clerk.

*Three* new churches, were added to the Association at this session—Babcock's Grove, consisting of twenty-seven members; Union Grove, eleven; Albion, fifteen.

*Eight* new Pastors appear on the minutes of this year—I. Dudley, in charge of churches at St. Charles and Batavia; P. Taylor, Warrenville; M. Brittan, Lake Zurich; O. Adams, Crystal Lake; A. S. Bramin, Union Ridge; R. R. Whittier, Montelona and Blackberry; W. Dickens, Bloomingdale; I. Marvin, Albion.

The Committee appointed last year to visit the delinquent churches, reported that the 1st DuPage church was dissolved; whereupon the name was stricken from the minutes.

The Prudential Committee reported that the church at McHenry was unconstitutionally dropped in 1843; and that her delegates were now present, bearing a letter to the Association; whereupon, the delegates were received and the church re-entered upon the minutes.

The minutes report thirty-two churches, twenty-five ordained ministers, three licentiates, 149 baptisms, 1,795 members. Several of the ministers were not settled Pastors, and



remained in the Association but a short time. Some of the Pastors also left during the year ; so that only eleven of the twenty-five ministers were present at the next anniversary.

The state of religion in the churches, as expressed in their letter to the Association, is thus summed up :

“ All the churches represented in the Association except three have stated preaching, some portion of the time ; and most of them every Lord’s day. They all contribute according to their means, to meet the necessary expenses and sustain worship in the house of God, and are generally favorable to the benevolent objects of the day. \* \* \* Though the past year has not been a season of distinguished and powerful revivals, yet some mercy drops have fallen on most of the churches, and at Elgin, Long Grove and Bristol they have had quite a refreshing from the presence of the Lord.”

A resolution was passed recommending the “ Western Christian,” and adopting it as the future organ of the Association.

Also a preamble and resolutions setting forth the wretched condition of the colored population of the Slave States.

A resolution was adopted, approving the decision of the Am. Bap. Board of Foreign Missions, and of the Baptist Home Missionary Society, in refusing to appoint slaveholders as Missionaries, and recommending to the churches composing this body, to sustain said Boards, in their present embarrassed condition, by their fervent prayers and liberal contributions. Whereupon contributions were taken, for Foreign Missions, \$29.55 ; and for Domestic, \$10.33.

The action of the North-Western Convention, relating to a union with the Illinois State Convention, created through-

out the Association an intense solicitude for the welfare of Domestic Missions in Northern Illinois; whereupon

“A Committee was appointed on the relation of this Association to that body.” The Committee reported, and the report was adopted as follows:

“Your Committee respectfully report,

“That we learn from the minutes of the North-Western Baptist Convention, that at their last session (at Belvidere, October, 1844,) they appointed a Committee to confer with a Committee of the Illinois State Convention, upon the subject of a union between the two bodies, instructing them to report to the auxiliaries composing these two organizations, the *terms* on which such union is contemplated. The Committees met at Canton, November 21, 1844; formed a State Association; appointed an agent, and established a paper, (The Western Star, edited by A. Bailey, Jacksonville,) in which they publish their proceedings. Your Committee deem such a union undesirable, as the great length of the State, together with the limited means of our best brethren, render it difficult, if not entirely impracticable, for us to co-operate with efficiency.”

“We therefore recommend that this Association instruct its delegates to the North-Western Baptist Convention to oppose the contemplated union.”

Dates are anticipated for the sake of giving a connected account of this matter. The North-Western Baptist Convention, at its last session, adjourned to meet at Tremont, Tazewell county, October 18th, 1845, for the express purpose of consummating a union of the two bodies; provided the negotiations were satisfactory for which Committees had been appointed. At that meeting, “The Baptist General

Association of Illinois," was permanently organized by a cordial and entire union of the *two* "Conventions."

A resolution was passed by the North-Western Convention, declaring that body to be virtually dissolved. And the *acting Board* of the Illinois Baptist State Convention, in confiding their trust to the newly organized body, used the following language :

"In resigning our trust to other hands, we would observe, that we regard the field in which the General Association is called to labor as vastly important. We must be allowed to congratulate all sections of our Zion in Illinois, on the happy union that has taken place between the two Conventions that have existed in this State for the past six years."

"The two Conventions," were *not* contemporaries *six* years, as will appear from the following facts.

The North-Western Baptist Convention was provisionally organized at Chicago, January 6th, 1841. The organization was made permanent at an adjourned meeting the following October. This was called the "Second Meeting." Two sessions were held in 1842 ; and the one in 1843 is styled "The Fifth *Annual* Meeting," and the session in 1844 "The Sixth *Annual* Meeting." It was indeed the *sixth* meeting of the Convention ; but only the *fourth* Anniversary. The extra meetings doubtless occasioned the error in reckoning. Hence it is apparent that "The two Conventions had existed" together only *four* instead of *six* years.

The Northern (now Fox River) Association was dissatisfied with the foregoing arrangement, and did not readily acquiesce in it, as appears from the measures adopted at the next meeting after the union of the two Conventions. At that meeting the

"Prudential Committee presented the following report, which was adopted :

"*Resolved*, That we recommend to the Association the appointment of an Executive Board on Home Missions, to consist of twenty-four members, five of whom shall constitute a quorum, which shall be located at Chicago. That this Association elect two thirds of said Board, and request the Rock River Association to elect the remainder; and that we appoint a delegation to attend the General Association of this State, and unite with them, provided they will recognize the above arrangement."

The foregoing resolution was presented to the General Association at its next anniversary, held at Peoria the following October, (1844.) The provisions of the resolution were not complied with, and both the Northern (now Fox River) and the Rock River Associations, united with the General Association unconditionally; and have ever since co-operated with that body.

We will now return to the session in 1845, and consider the division of the Northern Association.

The Prudential Committee in their report upon business "Suggest that it is expedient to appoint a Committee of three, to take into consideration the propriety of a mutual division of this Association, and report at the next annual meeting." But after some consultation it was,

"*Voted* to refer the subject of dividing the Association, as presented by the Prudential Committee, to the individual churches, to report in their letters at our next session."

The proposition to divide the Association elicited very little discussion. The ostensible, and indeed, the only reason assigned in favor of the measure, was the great extent of territory occupied by the Association, the average dimensions being about eighty by sixty miles. A few brethren



suggested apprehensions of inability to constitute two respectable and efficient bodies; to which only one individual replied. The speaker expressed his firm conviction, that nothing was to be feared from a division of the Association, that it would be productive of good—would bring gifts into action now lying dormant; be the means of more vigorous and enlarged efforts to promote the cause of Christ; and that the time was not far distant when each body would raise more money, and perform more missionary labor, than was then done by the whole Association; illustrating and confirming his opinion by reference to several similar divisions with like results.

But whatever might have been the ostensible reason, the *real* cause of the suggestion to divide, and the subsequent division of the Association, though not once expressed, was doubtless perfectly well understood by every one present. It existed in the great diversity and contrariety of opinions concerning slavery and the frequent debates which ensued.

1846.

The eleventh annual meeting was held at Bristol, June 4th and 5th. Introductory sermon by Elder A. J. Joslyn, from Deut. 1: 28. By request of the Association, this sermon was published in the *Western Christian*.

Elder I. Dudley, of St. Charles, was chosen Moderator, and R. W. Pa Delford, of Elgin, Clerk.

One new church was admitted into the Association at this session—Little Fort, (Waukegan.) It was organized in April with twelve members—three had been baptized, and two were added by letter. Total, seventeen. P. Freeman, minister.

Elder S. Knapp, of the Committee to visit delinquent



churches, "reported that the church at Joliet had become extinct, and recommended that the name be stricken from our minutes." Accordingly it was done.

Thirty-two churches, seventeen ordained ministers, three licentiates, twenty-eight baptisms, sixty-three exclusions, one hundred and eighty-seven additions by letters, and the entire membership one thousand eight hundred and thirty-seven, are reported in the minutes. Seven of the ministers were new pastors—B. H. Webster, Bristol; M. Sanford, 1st Chicago; J. N. Tolman, Plainfield, who was ordained the following August; J. Foster, Fairfield; S. G. Hunt, Somonauk and Little Rock, now Sandwich; W. H. Rice, Tabernacle, Chicago, and P. Freeman, Little Fort.

In view of the declension of religion throughout nearly the entire Association, the following resolution was passed :

"*Resolved*, That in view of the fact, that we have so few reports of conversions and baptisms, and so large a number of exclusions from our churches, we are called upon for the exercise of deep humiliation before God, and to renewed faithfulness and devotedness in our Master's cause, and to increased efforts for the salvation of the souls of our dying fellow men."

The Prudential Committee presented the following resolutions, relating to the division of the Association, which were adopted :

"1st. *Resolved*, That the Association be divided, and that the division line commence at the east end of Washington street, Chicago, running west to the western boundary of the Association.

"2d. *Resolved*, That the body north of the line be called the Northern Illinois Association, and that the one south, be called the Fox River Association, and that the *latter retain the present organization.*"

Hence, it is clear that the old Northern Association was neither dissolved nor disorganized by the division of the body; and that the Fox River Baptist Association is indeed but another name for the veritable old Northern Association, organized in 1835.

## CHAPTER SECOND.

*Division of the Association—Anniversaries from 1847 to 1858, inclusive—Statistical Tables—Recapitulatory and closing remarks.*

1847.

The twelfth annual meeting of the Association was held at Plainfield, June 2d and 3d. Opening sermon by Brother N. Warriner, from 1 Cor. 1 : 23, 24. I. Dudley, Moderator, and E. Hulbert, Clerk.

Fourteen churches, twelve ministers, nine of whom were settled pastors ; ten baptized, nine hundred and twenty-one members. *Two* fresh pastors ; *A. Gross*, Naperville, and *S. P. Ives*, Plainfield.

This session consummated the division of the Old Northern Association, at which time it took the name of

THE FOX RIVER ASSOCIATION,  
according to a resolution passed at the preceding anniversary.

The Northern division of the body had previously held a meeting at Dundee, and assumed the name of

THE CHICAGO ASSOCIATION.

The Churches, Ministers, and Membership which remained in "*the present* (or old) *organization*," were as follows :—  
*Aurora*, D. T. Graves, forty-two members ; *Batavia*, I. Dudley, fifty-five ; *Blackberry*, ————, forty ; *Bristol*, S. S.

Walker, (supply,) eighty-two; Chicago, A. Edson, (supply,) one hundred and eighty-two; Lockport, S. Knapp, twenty-two; Long Grove, (Pavilion,) J. F. Tolman, ninety-eight; Naperville, A. Gross, thirty-six; Newark, M. Edwards, forty-one; O'Plain, (Hadley,) ———, fifty-two; Paw Paw, N. Warriner, fifty-nine; Plainfield, S. P. Ives, ninety-two; Somonauk, (Sandwich,) S. G. Hunt, twenty; Warrenville, ———, one hundred.

The declension, of which mention has already been made, continued throughout all the churches. It was a day of gloom and thick darkness.

1848.

The thirteenth annual session was held with the 1st Baptist Church, Chicago, June, 7th and 8th, at which time the church was holding a protracted meeting, assisted by Bro. J. Knapp. Though this meeting contributed much to the pleasantness and interest of the session, yet it shortened the time for transacting business, in consequence of which it was very imperfectly done.

Introductory sermon by Brother Miner, Agent of the B. M. Union, from Isa. 49: 6. Brother J. F. Tolman, Moderator, and Brother L. D. Boone, Clerk.

*Two* churches, Somonauk, (Sandwich,) and Paw Paw, were dismissed for the purpose of uniting with other churches, to form the Ottawa Association. *One* new church was received—Oswego, ten members; also *three* new Pastors—Brother S. S. Walker, Long Grove, (Pavilion); A. Edson, Aurora; and Z. Brooks, who had just been ordained pastor of Bristol Church.

The minutes report fifteen churches, ten ministers, thirty-four baptized, and nine hundred and seventy members. Of

those baptized, the church at Paw Paw had received sixteen, and Naperville church eight.

The following resolution was passed :

“ *Resolved*, That we recommend to the members of the churches, composing this Association, to become members of the Fox River Bible Society, which was formed at Long Grove, (*Pavilion*,) November last, auxiliary to the A. and F. B. Society, and that the constitution of said Society be recommended for their adoption.”

A collection was then taken for the parent Society, and a considerable amount was subscribed for the Auxiliary Society.

1849.

The fourteenth anniversary was held at Long Grove, (*Pavilion*) June 6th and 7th. Brother E. Tucker, of Chicago, preached the opening sermon from I Tim. 1 : 11. After which he was elected Moderator, and Brother A. Edson, Clerk.

The church at Joliet, which became extinct, and was dropped in 1846, had been re-organized and was received into the Association at this session ; fourteen churches, ten ministers, six of whom commend their labors in this body during the preceding year, viz : E. Tucker, Chicago ; H. Hovey, Warrenville and Batavia ; F. W. Ingmyer, Joliet and Lockport ; C. D. Marvin, Kaneville ; S. Tucker, Naperville ; and N. Card, Newark. One hundred and fifty-three baptized, and nine hundred and fifty-nine members.

The session was refreshing—a season of joy, of gladness, and of devout thanksgiving. The dark portentous cloud, that for nearly three years, had hung over the churches, was now broken and dissipated. The sun of righteousness again shone forth with genial rays ; and the spirit's power was



realized in reviving drooping hopes and bringing sinners to repentance. Eight of the churches had enjoyed seasons of revival; and large accessions were made to some of them by baptism. The church in Hadley was doubled in membership, having received forty-one by baptism and seven by letter.

At the close of the session, June 7th, the Fox River Bible Society had its anniversary. The Constitution was so amended as to have the annual meeting on the first Tuesday of January, instead of following immediately at the close of the Association. The Society appears to have been in a prosperous condition at the time. But shortly after it became entire separated from the Association, it began to languish, and in a few years became extinct.

1850.

The fifteenth annual meeting was held at Naperville, June 5th and 6th. Introductory sermon by Brother Luther Stone, of Chicago, from Mat. 10: 30. Brother S. Tucker of Naperville, Moderator, and Brother L. Stone, Clerk.

*Big Rock* church was received with twenty members. *Two* new pastors; E. Scofield, Jr., Pavilion, and W. Williams, Big Rock. Fifteen churches, eleven pastors, five ministers not in charge, one hundred baptized, one thousand and eight members. The 1st Church Chicago, Kaneville and Batavia, had been blessed with revivals, and some mercy drops had fallen on a few other churches.

The following resolution was passed in memory of Judge Thomas, of Chicago.

“*Resolved*, That in the death of Brother Jesse B. Thomas, who was summoned home in the full strength of manhood, and almost in the morning of useful christian life, we have been bereft of one around whom our affections clung with

esteem and delight, and who was endeared to us by the ties which unite christian hearts in fellowship—that in this mysterious dispensation, the cause of Christ has suffered a deep loss, which none but the Great Head of the Church can supply—that we deeply sympathize with his afflicted family, and with the church of which he was a member.”

Brother Thomas was an example of piety and christian consistency. He was a Circuit Judge; and was one of the few who never violated the law of the Sabbath by traveling on his circuit on that day; but on the contrary, he habitually spent it in devout attendance on divine service.

1851.

The Association held its sixteenth anniversary at Batavia, June 4th and 5th. Opening sermon by Brother S. P. Ives, of Plainfield, from Mat. 16: 24. Brother S. Tucker, Naperville, Moderator, and Brother L. D. Boone, Chicago, Clerk.

The church at Aurora “had dissolved.” The names of *five* new pastors appear on the minutes: J. B. Dibell, Hadley; I. D. Newell, Batavia; S. F. Holt, Warrenville; J. Young, Pavilion; J. Higby, Newark. Fourteen churches, sixteen ministers, twelve of whom were pastors; one hundred and two baptized; one thousand and ninety-six members.

The churches in Kaneville, Plainfield, Warrenville, and 1st church Chicago, had enjoyed revivals, and some mercy drops had fallen on a few of the other churches in the body.

1852.

The seventeenth annual meeting of the Association was held at Newark, June 2d and 3d.

Brother S. Tucker preached the introductory sermon from Philip. 1: 21. He also served as Moderator, and Brother S. P. Ives, Clerk.

The church at Downer’s Grove was received, thirty-four

members; Brother S. F. Holt, pastor. The church at Aurora, having been reorganized, was received at this session with twenty-one members, I. D. Newell, pastor. There were sixteen churches, twelve ministers, eight of whom were pastors, two licentiates, one hundred and sixty-nine baptized, one thousand two hundred and twenty-two members. Eleven of the churches received accessions by baptism. The 1st church Chicago, and Oswego church enjoyed powerful revivals. The former had the labors of Bro. J. Knapp, in a protracted effort, and the latter the labors of Brother A. Estee, in a similar meeting.

The death of Dr. Ives is thus chronicled.

*Resolved*, That in the death of Dr. I. S. Ives of Oswego, a member with us of the last Association, whose lively interest in all our benevolent societies, endeared him greatly to all our hearts, the Zion of God has lost a true friend, and that we offer our sincere condolence to the church and the bereaved friends.

1853.

The eighteenth anniversary was held at Aurora, June 1st and 2d. Opening sermon by Brother J. Higby, of Newark, from Heb. 9: latter clause of the 22d verse. Brother R. B. Ashley of Plainfield, Moderator, and Deacon D. Haigh, Clerk. Seventeen churches, eleven ministers, of whom nine were pastors; one licentiate; one hundred and forty-one baptized; one thousand four hundred and twenty members. The name of one church was stricken out, viz: Joliet; and two churches were received at this session, Somonauk, *Sandwich*. This church was dismissed to the Ottawa Association in 1848, and now returned to this body because the construction of a railroad through the village rendered it more convenient to attend the anniversaries in this, than

in the Ottawa Association. Joliet is the name of the other church which was admitted, concerning the admission of which I find the following resolution :

*“Resolved, That the name of the old “Joliet Church,” be struck from the minutes of this Association.”*

*“That the application of the new Joliet Church for admission be received as the “First Baptist Church in Joliet.”*

This is the third time that a Joliet Church has been received into the Association.

Three new pastors ; Brother J. F. Child, who was ordained the preceding February, and had charge of two churches, Lockport and Joliet. Brother W. M. Haigh, Pavilion, where he was ordained the following November ; and Bro. J. C. Burroughs, 1st Church, Chicago.

From the time this Association united with the General Association in 1846, until this year, there appears to have been less interest manifested in Home and Domestic Missions than formerly. Nor is it very surprising that it was so, since the union was more a matter of necessity, than of choice, as stated under date of 1845.

At the present session a becoming zeal for Home Missions was manifested ; the subject seems to have been viewed in a new light, at least with a much deeper and more lively interest, than it had been for several years. And it is truly gratifying to be able to add that there is no abatement, but rather an increase of zeal and liberality in the promotion of this good cause. A plan was adopted to add \$200 to what had already been contributed to aid the General Association in prosecuting this work in which it was engaged, as may be seen from the following resolution :

*“Resolved, That while we are deeply grateful for the*



aid heretofore furnished to the churches of this State, by the A. B. H. Missionary Society, and must for years to come depend on that Society to aid us in fostering the feeble churches extended over our wide extended State; we yet feel that it is high time for Illinois to do something for itself, independent of foreign aid; and that for this purpose the General Association is designed and adopted, and ought to be put in possession of means for prosecuting this work; that therefore this Association endeavor to secure \$200 for the Treasury of the General Association, between this and its annual meeting next October; and that the Pastors be requested to present the subject to their several charges; and to raise from each, its proportion of the amount."

Whereas, Brother Stone had failed to issue his weekly sheet for a considerable length of time; therefore the subject was brought up, and the following resolutions passed:

"*Resolved*, That the Association ask Brother Stone to propose the lowest terms on which he will dispose of the "Watchman of the Prairies," and that a committee be appointed to examine such proposition, and to negotiate the purchase of the paper, by some person who will furnish the denomination with a good paper at an early day."

"*Resolved*, That Elder J. C. Burroughs, and brethren O. Wilson, Dr. Anderson, A. D. Tittsworth, and Dr. L. D. Boone, be constituted a committee, to carry into effect the provisions of the above resolution." The committee reported at the next session as follows:

"The Committee to negotiate with Elder L. Stone at last Association, reported that they had completed the purchase of the paper from Rev. L. Stone, and had transferred the same to Revs. L. Church and J. A. Smith," whereby they became proprietors and editors of the paper, which they issue under the name of the "Christian Times." When the foregoing report was made, (1854,) the Association passed resolutions highly commendatory of the "Christian Times," and of Brother Stone, the late proprietor and edi-



tor of the "Watchman of the Prairies" for "furnishing the denomination with a medium of communication, for more than five years, when the difficulties in the way to such an enterprise were great and the encouragements few"—difficulties that crushed the "North-Western Baptist" in less than three, and occasioned the setting of the "Western Star" in two years.

1854.

The nineteenth annual meeting was held at Oswego, June 7th and 8th. Brother Raymond of Chicago, preached the introductory sermon from Mat. 27: 19. Brother S. Tucker, Moderator, and Deacon D. Haigh, Clerk.

*One* new church; Momense, twenty-eight members. It was organized in December, 1852, with sixteen members. *Five* new pastors are reported: W. Morse, Plainfield; J. M. Cochran, Batavia; A. D. Freeman, Warrenville and Downer's Grove; C. Button, Aurora; and B. Hicks, Big Rock. Eighteen churches, twenty-five ministers, of whom only twelve were pastors; four licentiates; fifty-six baptized; one thousand five hundred and sixteen members.

"Rev. Elisha Tucker, D. D., departed this life on the 29th of December, 1853, at the residence of his son in Cumberland, Md." His death was very respectfully noticed by the Association, as appears from the following appropriate resolutions, which were taken separately and adopted, viz:

*Resolved*, 1st. That in view of the death of our venerated and beloved brother, Rev. Elisha Tucker, whose decease has again been brought to our minds by the reading of the letter from the Chicago church, of which he was a member, we feel called upon to record our sense of the loss which this Association has sustained in removing one whose counsels always led to harmony, whose voice inspired to duty,

and whose examples as a faithful and devoted minister of Jesus is worthy of all imitation.

*Resolved*, That in this afflictive Providence, one of the brightest lights of the church has been extinguished; a light which shed its radiance far and wide, leading many from the darkness of sin and death, to the glories of life eternal; a light which though extinct on earth, has been relit to shine forever in the paradise of God.

*Resolved*, That we deeply sympathize with the bereaved family in the loss they have sustained, a loss which hearts thus smitten can alone feel, but which no mere words can adequately express.

The following resolutions were adopted in relation to Domestic Missions:

*Resolved*, That a Committee be appointed, consisting of Brethren J. C. Burroughs, J. D. Cole, and R. C. Anderson, to mature the views of this body, on the importance of a thorough entrance of the denomination in the State upon a system of Domestic Missions; which Committee afterwards reported as follows, and report adopted, viz:

Your Committee are of the opinion that the time has fully come when the Baptists, as a body of Christians in Illinois will be recreant to their duty to delay longer an earnest commencement of a system of efficient Domestic Missions. Fields, ripe and ready for our successful occupancy, are opening all over the State, and to delay longer is to lose the opportunities which God is now placing before us; and it is the deliberate judgment of your Committee that the proper body in which the strength of our brotherhood in the State, should be concentrated in this enterprize, is the General Association. Therefore the Committee present the following Resolutions for the adoption of the Association:

*Resolved*, That it is the deliberate opinion of this Association, that the present condition of our State as to its religious wants, in the Providence of God, imperatively

demands that a system of Domestic Missions be immediately originated by the Baptists of Illinois.

*Resolved*, That it is the judgment of this body that our General Association is the appropriate organization to conduct this enterprize, and that full arrangements should be perfected without further delay at its session the coming autumn for a vigorous commencement and prosecution of Domestic Missions by that body.

*Resolved*, That this Association pledges to the General Association, its co-operation in this enterprize.

*Resolved*, That a Committee be now appointed by the body to draw out a plan of Domestic Missionary operations, and submit the same to our Delegation to the General Association for their approval; which, if they give, then said delegation are hereby instructed to present it to that body for their consideration.

*Resolved*, That the following brethren be appointed a Committee to carry out the business contained in the last resolution, viz: Elders J. C. Burroughs, J. D. Cole, S. Tucker, J. A. Smith, and Deacon Hoard.

At the meeting of the General Association the following autumn, Elder J. Clark of Rockford was appointed General Agent and Superintendent of Missions for Illinois. He entered upon his agency, prosecuted it with great vigor and success. From that time Domestic Missions have prospered under the fostering care of that body. It is with pleasure that we are able to add that this Association generously sustains the General Association; and is thus redeeming its pledge to co-operate with it in this enterprise.

1855.

The twentieth annual meeting was held at Lockport, June 6th and 7th. Opening sermon by Brother J. C. Burroughs of Chicago, from Isa. 53: 11. Brother S. Tucker, Moderator, and Deacon D. Haigh, Clerk.

*Two* new churches were received at this session—*Morris*, gathered by Brother Freeman, a Missionary of the General Association. It was organized in October 1854, with ten members. It had increased to nineteen members when it was received. *Twelve Mile Grove*, (Willingford,) organized October 2d, 1854, with nine members.

*Seven* fresh pastors—C. H. Smith, Plainfield; W. D. Clark, Joliet and Lockport; J. F. Lathrop, Kaneville; O. E. Clark, Newark; C. Garrison, Downer's Grove; W. Storrs, Momense; W. G. Johnson, Morris. Brethren C. H. Smith and O. E. Clark were ordained to the work of the Gospel ministry during this year.

Twenty churches; twenty-six ministers, of whom fifteen were pastors; one hundred and twenty-eight baptized, and a total membership of one thousand five hundred and forty-eight.

1856.

The twenty-first annual meeting was held at Kaneville, June 5th and 6th. The introductory sermon by Brother C. Button of Aurora, from Phil. 1: 21. Brother J. C. Burroughs, Moderator, and Brother J. C. Smith, Clerk; both of Chicago.

*Three* new churches were received—Little Rock, Kendall Co., ten members; Norman, Grundy Co., twenty-six members, of whom nine had been added by baptism; and German church, Somonauk, DeKalb Co., eleven members, six of whom had been added by baptism.

*Six* new pastors: W. G. Howard, 1st Chicago; N. Alvord, Sandwich; E. Gale, Pavilion; N. F. Ravlin, Newark; D. S. Starr, Big Rock; C. A. West, Somonauk, *German*. Eighty-two baptized; one thousand five hundred and thirty-



three members; twenty-three churches; fourteen pastors, and eight ministers without charge.

After extending the usual invitation to visiting brethren to take a seat with the body; "Rev. Mr. Close, pastor of the Methodist Church in Kaneville, was invited to sit with the Association and participate in its deliberations."

"It having been announced to the Association, that the Fox River Congregational Union have signified a desire to open a correspondence with us, and have appointed a delegate to represent them at this meeting, it was voted that we respond to their overture, and that Rev. Charles H. Smith be our delegate at their next meeting."

A collection and subscription were taken to raise \$150 for Brother West, (German,) to be applied to that purpose by the Board of the General Association.

1857.

The twenty-second Anniversary was held at Sandwich, DeKalb Co., June 3d and 4th. Opening sermon by Brother C. Garrison, from John 15, second clause of the 5th verse. Brother S. A. Estee of Aurora, Moderator, and Deacon D. Haigh of Specie Grove, Clerk.

Two new churches were added—*Edina Place*, Chicago, organized October 30th 1856, with nineteen members, chiefly from the 1st Church; sixteen baptized; fifty-five added by letter; one excluded; one died; making the number ninety when received into the Association. R. Boyd, Pastor.

*Somonauk*, at Somonauk Depot, DeKalb Co., organized February 25th; B. Hicks, pastor; eighteen members when organized, and the same number when admitted into the Association.

*Seven* fresh Pastors were joyfully greeted at this session: Elders R. Boyd, Edina Place, Chicago; H. Westcott, Warrenville; H. B. Foskett, Joliet; W. M. Bassett, Sandwich; J. Sell, Momence; A. C. Manley, Norman; and E. P. Barker, Naperville.

Aggregate, twenty-five churches; twenty-nine ministers, of whom twenty-one were pastors; one hundred and nineteen baptized, and one thousand seven hundred and fifty-four members.

1858.

The twenty-third anniversary was held at Plainfield, June 2d and 3d; a village of about 1,200 inhabitants, Will Co. Opening sermon by Pastor Boyd, Edina Place Church, Chicago, from Mat. 7: 21. Pastor Raymond of the Union Church, Aurora, Moderator; Deacon D. Haigh, Specie Grove, Clerk. Twenty churches; twenty-one pastors; four hundred and twenty-three baptized. Total membership in all the twenty-eight churches, two thousand three hundred and thirty-three; eleven ministers without charge, and one licentiate.

*Three* new churches were added to the body at this session: *Evanston*, organized April 28th, 1858, with six members, Brother J. C. Burroughs, minister. *Union*, Aurora, organized June 2d 1857, with twenty-seven members, dismissed from the Aurora Church for that purpose. Alterations: added by baptism forty-nine, by letter thirty, by experience seven; dismissed two; died one; making one hundred and nine when admitted. I. Raymond, pastor. *Lisbon*, organized January 28th of the present year, with twenty-nine members, most of whom were dismissed from Newark church for that purpose; eight had been added by letter;

one by experience; one died; making a total of thirty-seven members when received into the Association. N. F. Ravlin, pastor.

*Five* fresh pastors: E. Savage, Joliet; E. W. Benton, Norman; L. Raymond, Union, Aurora; R. A. Clapp, Oswego, where he had been recently ordained; and W. M. Haigh, Bristol.

The attendance was fair, considering the extreme badness of the roads, which, by the falling of copious showers of rain for several weeks immediately preceding the session, were rendered worse than they had been at any of the anniversaries of the body since 1844, at which time they were nearly impassable.

The tidings brought by the letters and messengers from nearly all of the churches, were of the most cheering character. Nineteen of them reported accessions by baptism. Four were not reported, so that only two of the twenty-four letters which were read failed to give intelligence of baptisms; the aggregate of which exceeded the accessions reported at any former session. A larger number, however, in proportion to the population, was added to the churches by baptism in 1843, when 354 were baptized:

Rev. J. C. Burroughs, of Chicago, presented the following resolution of thanksgiving, which was unanimously adopted:

*Resolved*, That while convened in our annual session, where we have often met to mourn over spiritual desolations, it would be deep ingratitude in us not to remember, and here to lift up before God our sacrifice of thanksgiving to God, for that precious out-pouring of his Spirit, with which the churches of this Association, in common with the Church of our land generally, have been visited during the past winter; and while the commercial interests of our country are prostrated, and the clouds which overspread the heav-

ens and are drenching our country with floods and cutting off the hopes of the husbandman, are but the symbol of the cloud of gloom which in temporal things overhangs us, we will still rejoice and be deeply grateful for that great blessing which is better than when the corn and the wine are increased.

*Resolved*, That in view of the intimate connection between the blessed revivals of the last winter and the prayers of God's people, we will take new heart to pray, and will observe as in other years, the first Monday in January, a day memorable in many of our churches for the manifestations of God's special presence, as a day of fasting and prayer for the reviving and converting influences of the Spirit of God. And may the coming year be in converting grace as this, and still more abundantly.



TABLE I.

The following table shows the names of the ministers who have been settled Pastors in the Association; the names of the churches of which they were pastors; the time of their becoming such; the number of years they labored with the churches, while said churches remained members of this body; also the time of their removal, (of such as have removed,) or exclusion, or death, as far as we have been able to learn these facts:

| THE FORMER &<br>PRESENT NAME<br>OF CHURCHES. | NAMES OF<br>PASTORS. | Became<br>Pastors. | Served as<br>Pastors. | Removed. | Excluded | Died. |
|--|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|----------|----------|-------|
| O'Plain, . . . . .<br>now<br>Hadley.         | J. E. Ambrose,       | 1834               |                       |          |          |       |
|  | J. G. Porter,        | 1835               | 2                     | 1837     |          |       |
|  | A. W. Button,        | 1839               | 2                     | 1841     |          |       |
|  | S. Knapp,            | 1841               | 3                     | 1844     |          |       |
|  | S. Knapp,            | 1849               | 1                     | 1850     |          |       |
|  | J. B. Dibell,        | 1851               |                       |          |          |       |
| 1st Chicago, . . .                           | A. B. Freeman,       | 1833               | 1                     |          |          | 1834  |
|  | J. F. Hinton,        | 1835               | 7                     | 1842     |          |       |
|  | C. B. Smith,         | 1842               | 1                     | 1843     |          |       |
|  | E. H. Hamlin,        | 1844               | 2                     | 1846     |          |       |
|  | M. Sanford,          | 1846               | 1                     | 1847     |          |       |
|  | E. Tucker,           | 1849               | 3                     |          |          |       |
|  | J. C. Burroughs      | 1853               | 3                     | 1856     |          |       |
|  | W. G. Howard,        | 1856               |                       |          |          |       |
| 1st DuPage, . . .                            | A. B. Hubbard,       | 1834               | 5                     | 1839     |          |       |
|  | L. B. King,          | 1839               | 1                     | 1840     |          |       |
| Plainfield, . . . . .                        | J. E. Ambrose,       | 1834               | 4                     | 1838     |          |       |
|  | R. B. Ashley,        | 1838               | 4                     | 1842     |          |       |
|  | S. Knapp,            | 1843               | 1                     | 1844     |          |       |
|  | R. B. Ashley,        | 1844               | 2                     | 1846     |          |       |
|  | J. N. Tolman,        | 1846               | 1                     | 1847     |          |       |
|  | S. P. Ives,          | 1847               | 6                     | 1853     |          |       |
|  | R. B. Ashley,        | 1853               | 1                     | 1854     |          |       |

| THE FORMER &<br>PRESENT NAME<br>OF CHURCHES. | NAMES OF<br>PASTORS. | Became<br>Pastors. | Served as<br>Pastors. | Removed. | Excluded | Died.          |
|--|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|----------|----------|----------------|
| Plainfield .....                             | W. Morse,            | 1854               | 1                     | 1855     |          |                |
|  | C. H. Smith,         | 1855               | 1                     | 1856     |          |                |
|  | A. D. Freeman,       | 1856               |                       |          |          |                |
| Long Grove ...                               | J. F. Tolman,        | 1834               | 9                     | 1843     |          |                |
| now  | J. Scofield,         | 1843               | 3                     | 1846     |          |                |
| Bristol.                                     | B. H. Webster,       | 1846               | 1                     | 1847     |          |                |
|  | Z. Brooks,           | 1848               | 2                     | 1850     |          |                |
|  | J. Young,            | 1852               | 4                     | 1856     |          |                |
|  | W. M. Haigh,         | 1858               |                       |          |          |                |
| Little Woods, ..                             | D. W. Elmore,        | 1836               | 2                     | 1838     |          |                |
| then   | J. E. Ambrose,       | 1838               | 2                     | 1840     |          |                |
| Charleston,                                  | Jas. T. Wheeler      | 1841               | 1                     | 1842     |          |                |
| now  | D. W. Elmore,        | 1842               | 1                     | 1843     |          |                |
| St. Charles.                                 | M. L. Wisner,        | 1844               | 1                     | 1845     |          |                |
|  | I. Dudley,           | 1845               | 1                     |          |          |                |
| Vermillinville, ..                           | Thos. Powell,        | 1836               | 1                     |          |          |                |
| Big Woods, ...                               | Elder King,          |                    |                       |          |          |                |
| now  | J. E. Ambrose,       | 1838               | 1                     | 1839     |          |                |
| Batavia.                                     | D. T. Graves,        | 1839               | 4                     | 1843     |          |                |
|  | R. R. Whittier,      | 1843               |                       |          |          |                |
|  | M. L. Wisner,        | 1844               | 1                     | 1845     |          |                |
|  | I. Dudley,           | 1845               | 3                     | 1848     |          |                |
|  | M. L. Wisner,        | 1848               | 1                     | 1849     |          |                |
|  | H. Hovey,            | 1850               | 1                     | 1851     |          |                |
|  | I. D. Newell,        | 1851               | 1                     | 1852     |          |                |
|  | J. M. Cochran,       | 1854               |                       |          |          |                |
| Jackson's Grove                              | .....                | 1836               |                       |          |          |                |
| Belvidere, .....                             | S. S. Whitman,       | 1836               | 4                     |          |          |                |
| 2d DuPage, ....                              | D. T. Graves,        | 1838               | 1                     | 1839     | {        | Sep. 1<br>1851 |
| now  | A. B. Hubbard,       | 1839               | 2                     | 1841     |          |                |
| Warrenville,                                 | J. Wheeler,          | 1841               | 2                     | 1843     |          |                |
|  | A. J. Joslyn,        | 1843               | 1                     | 1844     |          |                |
|  | P. Taylor,           | 1845               | 2                     | 1847     |          |                |
|  | H. Hovey,            | 1849               | 2                     | 1851     |          |                |
|  | F. S. Holt,          | 1851               | 2                     | 1853     |          |                |

| THE FORMER &<br>PRESENT NAME<br>OF CHURCHES. | NAMES OF<br>PASTORS. | Became<br>Pastors. | Served as<br>Pastors. | Removed. | Excluded | Died. |
|--|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|----------|----------|-------|
| Warrenville,...                              | A. D. Freeman,       | 1854               | 1                     | 1855     |          |       |
|  | — Haff,              | 1855               |                       |          |          |       |
|  | H. Westcott,         | 1857               |                       |          |          |       |
| Upper O'Plain.                               | J. Wheeler,          | 1837               | 4                     | 1841     |          |       |
|  | A. W. Button,        | 1841               | 4                     | 1845     |          |       |
|  | J. Wheeler,          |                    | —                     |          |          |       |
| Joliet, .....                                | R. B. Ashley,        | 1837               | 3                     | 1840     |          |       |
|  | S. Knapp,            | 1840               | 1                     | 1841     |          |       |
|  | F. W. Ingmyer,       | 1849               | 3                     | 1852     |          |       |
|  | J. F. Childs,        | 1853               | 2                     | 1855     |          |       |
|  | W. D. Clark,         | 1855               | 1                     | 1856     |          |       |
|  | H. B. Foskett,       | 1857               | 1                     | 1858     |          |       |
|  | E. Savage,           | 1858               |                       |          |          |       |
| Prophet's Town .....                         |                      | 1837               |                       |          |          |       |
| Rochester, Ws. ....                          |                      | 1837               |                       |          |          |       |
| Lake Zurich,...                              | J. Wheeler,          | 1839               | 1                     | 1840     |          |       |
|  | J. Sears,            | 1840               | 1                     | 1841     |          |       |
|  | C. Barnes,           | 1843               | 2                     | 1845     |          |       |
|  | M. Brittan,          | 1845               | 1                     | 1846     |          |       |
|  | J. Wheeler,          |                    | —                     |          |          |       |
| Elgin .....                                  | J. E. Ambrose,       | 1838               | 6                     | 1844     |          |       |
|  | A. J. Joslyn,        | 1844               | 2                     |          |          |       |
| McHenry .....                                | J. Wheeler,          | 1838               | 4                     | 1842     |          |       |
|  | C. Barnes,           | 1842               | 4                     |          |          |       |
| Dundee and                                   | D. W. Elmore,        | 1838               | 2                     | 1840     |          |       |
| Adam, now                                    | J. E. Ambrose,       | 1840               | 3                     | 1843     |          |       |
| Dundee.                                      | P. Freeman,          | 1844               | 1                     | 1845     |          |       |
|  | M. L. Wisner,        | 1845               | 1                     | 1846     |          |       |
| Crystal Lake, ..                             | J. Wheeler,          | 1839               | 2                     | 1841     |          |       |
|  | A. Pease,            | 1842               | 1                     | 1843     |          |       |
|  | P. Freeman,          | 1844               | 1                     | 1845     |          |       |
|  | O. Adams,            | 1845               | 1                     | 1846     |          |       |
| Fairfield, .....                             | D. W. Elmore,        | 1839               | 1                     | 1840     |          |       |
|  | L. B. King,          | 1840               | 2                     | 1842     |          |       |
|  | J. S. King,          | 1842               | 1                     | 1843     |          |       |

| THE FORMER &<br>PRESENT NAME<br>OF CHURCHES. | NAMES OF<br>PASTORS. | Became<br>Pastors. | Served as<br>Pastors. | Removed. | Excluded | Died. |
|--|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|----------|----------|-------|
| Fairfield,.....                              | J. Blake,            | 1844               | 1                     | 1845     |          |       |
| North East....                               | A. W. Button,        | 1841               | 3                     | 1844     |          |       |
| Paw Paw Grove                                | C. Hardin,           | 1841               | 2                     |          |          | 1843  |
|  | N. Warriner,         | 1843               | 5                     |          |          |       |
| Bloomington, ..                              | J. Wheeler,          | 1841               | 1                     | 1842     |          |       |
|  | W. Dickens,          | 1845               | 1                     |          |          |       |
| Union Ridge, ..                              | A. S. Brayman,       | 1845               | 1                     |          |          |       |
| Upper Somon-                                 | N. Warriner,         | 1843               | 3                     | 1846     |          |       |
| auk, then                                    | S. G. Hunt,          | 1846               | 5                     | 1851     |          |       |
| Somonauk and                                 | J. Higbey,           | 1852               | 1                     | 1853     |          |       |
| Little Rock, then                            | J. Young,            | 1853               | 1                     | 1854     |          |       |
| Somonauk,                                    | J. Higbey,           | 1855               | 1                     | 1856     |          |       |
| now  | N. Alvord,           | 1856               | 1                     | 1857     |          |       |
| Sandwich.                                    | W. M. Bassett,       | 1857               |                       |          |          |       |
| Montelona.....                               | R. R. Whittier,      | 1845               | 1                     |          |          |       |
| Blackberry ....                              | S. Poley,            | 1843               | 1                     | 1844     |          |       |
| now  | R. R. Whittier,      | 1845               | 1                     | 1846     |          |       |
| Kaneville.                                   | C. D. Marvin,        | 1849               | 1                     | 1850     |          |       |
|  | Z. Brooks,           | 1850               | 3                     |          | 1853     |       |
|  | J. F. Lathrop,       | 1855               |                       |          |          |       |
| Naperville.....                              | R. B. Ashley,        | 1844               | 2                     | 1846     |          |       |
|  | A. Gross,            | 1847               | 2                     | 1849     |          |       |
|  | S. Tucker,           | 1849               | 7                     | 1856     |          |       |
|  | E. P. Barker,        | 1857               | 1                     | 1858     |          |       |
| Tabernacle, Chi.                             | W. H. Rice,          | 1846               |                       |          |          |       |
| Long Grove, ...                              | J. F. Tolman,        | 1844               | 4                     | 1848     |          |       |
| now  | S. S. Walker,        | 1848               | 1                     |          | 1849     |       |
| Pavilion.                                    | E. Scofield, Jr.     | 1849               | 2                     | 1851     |          |       |
|  | J. Young,            | 1851               | 2                     | 1853     |          |       |
|  | W. M. Haigh,         | 1853               | 3                     | 1856     |          |       |
|  | E. Gale,             | 1856               |                       |          |          |       |
| Newark.....                                  | M. Edwards,          | 1844               | 1                     | 1845     |          |       |
|  | J. F. Tolman,        | 1845               | 1                     | 1846     |          |       |
|  | M. Edwards,          | 1846               | 3                     | 1849     |          |       |
|  | N. Card,             | 1850               | 1                     | 1851     |          |       |

| THE FORMER &<br>PRESENT NAME<br>OF CHURCHES. | NAMES OF<br>PASTORS. | Became<br>Pastors. | Served as<br>Pastors. | Removed. | Excluded | Died. |
|--|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|----------|----------|-------|
| Newark,.....                                 | J. Higbey,           | 1851               | 4                     | 1855     |          |       |
|  | O. E. Clark,         | 1855               | 1                     | 1856     |          |       |
|  | N. F. Ravlin,        | 1856               | 2                     | 1858     |          |       |
| East Prairie,...                             | W. N. Button,        | 1845               | 1                     |          |          |       |
| Aurora,.....                                 | J. Blake,            | 1844               | 1                     | 1845     |          |       |
|  | D. T. Graves,        | 1845               | 3                     | 1848     |          |       |
|  | A. Edson,            | 1848               | 2                     | 1850     |          |       |
|  | I. D. Newell,        | 1851               | 2                     | 1853     |          |       |
|  | C. Button,           | 1854               |                       |          |          |       |
| Lockport,.....                               | S. Knapp,            | 1844               | 5                     | 1849     |          |       |
|  | F. W. Ingmyer,       | 1849               | 2                     | 1851     |          |       |
|  | S. Knapp,            | 1851               | 1                     | 1852     |          |       |
|  | J. F. Child,         | 1853               | 2                     | 1855     |          |       |
|  | W. D. Clark,         | 1855               | 2                     | 1857     |          |       |
| Babcocks Grove .....                         |                      | 1845               |                       |          |          |       |
| Union Grove,.....                            |                      | 1845               |                       |          |          |       |
| Albion.....                                  |                      | 1845               |                       |          |          |       |
| Little Fort,                                 |                      |                    |                       |          |          |       |
| Waukegan,                                    | P. Freeman,          | 1846               |                       |          |          |       |
| Washington,.....                             |                      |                    |                       |          |          |       |
| Oswego.....                                  | A. Edson,            | 1849               | 3                     | 1852     |          |       |
|  | S. P. Ives,          | 1852               | 1                     | 1853     |          |       |
|  | A. Edson,            | 1853               | 3                     | 1856     |          |       |
|  | D. S. Starr,         | 1856               | 1                     | 1857     |          |       |
|  | R. A. Clapp,         | 1858               |                       |          |          |       |
| Big Rock,.....                               | W. Williams,         | 1850               | 2                     | 1852     |          |       |
|  | B. Hicks,            | 1854               | 1                     | 1855     |          |       |
|  | D. S. Starr,         | 1856               | 2                     | 1858     |          |       |
| Downer's Grove                               | F. S. Holt,          | 1851               | 2                     | 1853     |          |       |
|  | A. D. Freeman,       | 1854               | 1                     | 1855     |          |       |
|  | C. Garrison,         | 1855               | 3                     | 1858     |          |       |
|  | E. P. Barker,        | 1858               |                       |          |          |       |
| Momence,.....                                | W. Storrs,           | 1855               | 1                     | 1856     |          |       |
|  | J. Cell,             | 1857               |                       |          |          |       |
| 12 Mile Grove,.                              | J. B. Dibell,        | 1855               | 1                     | 1856     |          |       |



| THE FORMER &<br>PRESENT NAME<br>OF CHURCHES. | NAMES OF<br>PASTORS. | Became<br>Pastors. | Served as<br>Pastors. | Removed. | Excluded | Died. |
|--|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|----------|----------|-------|
| Morris,.....                                 | W. G. Johnson,       | 1855               | 1                     | 1856     |          |       |
|  | W. D. Clark,         | 1857               |                       |          |          |       |
| Little Rock....                              | B. Hicks,            | 1856               | 1                     | 1857     |          |       |
|  | D. S. Starr,         | 1857               | 1                     | 1858     |          |       |
| Norman, .....                                | A. C. Manley,        | 1857               | 1                     | 1858     |          |       |
|  | G. W. Benton,        | 1858               |                       |          |          |       |
| Somonauk, Ger.                               | C. West,             | 1856               |                       |          |          |       |
| Edina Place, Chi                             | R. Boyd,             | 1857               |                       |          |          |       |
| Somonauk,.....                               | B. Hicks,            | 1857               |                       |          |          |       |
| Evanston,.....                               | .....                | 1858               |                       |          |          |       |
| Lisbon, .....                                | N. F. Ravlin,        | 1858               |                       |          |          |       |
| Union, Aurora,                               | L. Raymond,          | 1858               |                       |          |          |       |

The above table has been compiled from Minutes of the Association. It can hardly be expected to be faultless; but is probably as correct as could be made from sources so limited and imperfect.

In referring to it, let it be borne in mind that the dates are made to agree with *Associational* years, which include a part of two civil years, and end with the session in June, or nearly seven months before the civil year of the same date.

The table shows 93 ministers have labored as Pastors in the Association; that they have performed about 240 years of Pastoral labor; that there have been 167 changes of Pastors; that the average term of Pastoral labor is but a fraction over 17 months; that the longest term with one church is nine years, and the shortest, one month; and that there are more than 70 terms of a single year or less than a year.

When the name of a Pastor is followed by a dash (—) in the column, headed, "Served as Pastors," it denotes that his time of service was less than a year.

TABLE II.

The preceding table, (No. 1,) contains both the original and present names of the churches. This the present only; the time, and membership when organized; and when received into the Association; the number of years connected with it; the whole number added by baptism, and from all sources; the number dismissed, dropped, excluded, and died: also the present number as far as these facts are known.

N. B. Churches marked thus † formed the Chicago Association in 1847.

| NAMES<br>OF THE<br>CHURCHES. | When organized. |     | When received. |     | No. of yrs connected |     | Added by baptism.<br>Added from all sources. |     | Dismissed. | Dropped. | Excluded. |     | Died. | Present number. |
|------------------------------|-----------------|-----|----------------|-----|----------------------|-----|--|-----|------------|----------|-----------|-----|-------|-----------------|
|                              | Year.           | No. | Year.          | No. | Yrs.                 | No. | Year.  | No. |            |          | Year.     | No. |       |                 |
| Hadley,                      | 1833            | 12  | 1835           | 34  | 23                   | 100 | 208  | 87  | 17         | 49       | 14        | 53  |       |                 |
| 1st Chicago,                 | 1833            | 15  | 1835           | 40  | 23                   | 575 | 1290   | 520 | 115        | 103      | 37        | 530 |       |                 |
| 1st DuPage,                  | 1834            | 6   | 1835           | 34  | 10                   | 28  | 53   | 9   |            | 1        | 3         |     |       |                 |
| Plainfield,                  | 1834            | 5   | 1835           | 12  | 23                   | 164 | 300  | 123 | 20         | 32       | 12        | 118 |       |                 |
| Bristol,                     | 1834            | 6   | 1836           | 29  | 22                   | 150 | 337  | 148 | 3          | 67       | 27        | 98  |       |                 |
| † St. Charles,               | 1835            | 10  | 1836           | 22  | 10                   | 8   | 108  | 48  |            | 3        | 1         |     |       |                 |
| Vermillionville,             | 1835            | 15  | 1836           | 15  | 1                    | 2   | 2  |     |            |          |           |     |       |                 |
| Batavia,                     | 1836            | 13  | 1836           | 12  | 22                   | 87  | 217  | 68  | 0          | 55       | 21        | 86  |       |                 |
| Jackson's Grove,             | 1836            | 5   | 1836           | 6   |                      | 1   | 1  |     |            |          |           |     |       |                 |
| Belvidere,                   | 1836            | 13  | 1836           | 15  | 4                    | 19  | 107  | 4   |            |          | 2         |     |       |                 |
| Warrenville,                 | 1836            | 22  | 1836           | 22  | 22                   | 157 | 295  | 116 | 29         | 50       | 23        | 77  |       |                 |
| † Upper O'Plain,             | 1837            | 10  | 1837           | 10  | 9                    | 24  | 47   | 12  |            | 3        | 2         |     |       |                 |
| Joliet,                      | 1837            | 12  | 1837           | 12  | 9                    | 14  | 48   | 33  |            |          |           |     |       |                 |
| Joliet,                      |                 |     | 1849           | 15  | 3                    | 1   | 16   | 9   |            |          |           |     |       |                 |
| Joliet,                      | 1853            | 13  | 1853           | 15  | 5                    | 4   | 66   | 23  | 2          |          | 3         | 51  |       |                 |
| Prophet's Town,              | 1837            |     |                |     |                      |     |  |     |            |          |           |     |       |                 |
| Rochester,                   | 1837            |     |                |     | 1                    |     |  |     |            |          |           |     |       |                 |
| † Lake Zurich,               | 1837            | 13  | 1838           | 14  | 9                    | 7   | 45   | 27  |            |          | 8         | 1   |       |                 |
| † Elgin,                     | 1838            | 13  | 1838           | 13  | 8                    | 113 | 242  | 35  |            | 13       | 5         |     |       |                 |
| † McHenry,                   | 1838            | 20  | 1838           | 20  | 8                    |     | 14   | 7   |            |          | 6         | 3   |       |                 |
| † Dundee,                    | 1838            | 13  | 1838           | 13  | 8                    | 52  | 108  | 14  |            | 7        | 2         |     |       |                 |
| † Crystal Lake,              | 1839            | 17  | 1839           | 17  | 7                    | 19  | 80   | 24  |            |          | 8         | 5   |       |                 |
| Fairfield,                   | 1839            | 13  | 1839           | 13  | 7                    | 12  | 44   | 16  |            |          | 2         | 4   |       |                 |
| † North East,                | 1841            | 19  | 1841           | 21  | 5                    | 34  | 58   | 7   |            |          | 2         | 1   |       |                 |

| NAMES<br>OF THE<br>CHURCHES. | When organized. |     | When received. |     | No. when received. |     | No. of yr's connected |     | Added by baptism. |     | Added from all sources. |     | Dismissed. |     | Dropped. |     | Excluded. |     | Died. |     | Present number. |
|------------------------------|-----------------|-----|----------------|-----|--------------------|-----|-----------------------|-----|-------------------|-----|-------------------------|-----|------------|-----|----------|-----|-----------|-----|-------|-----|-----------------|
|                              | Year            | No. | Year           | No. | Year               | No. | Year                  | No. | Year              | No. | Year                    | No. | Year       | No. | Year     | No. | Year      | No. | Year  | No. |                 |
| Paw Paw Grove,               | 1841            | 17  | 1841           | 14  | 7                  | 46  | 90                    | 12  |                   |     |                         |     |            |     |          |     | 11        | 3   |       |     |                 |
| † Bloomingdale,              | 1841            |     | 1841           | 23  | 5                  | 19  | 28                    | 8   |                   |     |                         |     |            |     |          |     | 2         | 1   |       |     |                 |
| † Union Ridge,               |                 |     | 1842           | 14  | 4                  | 3   | 5                     | 2   |                   |     |                         |     |            |     |          |     |           | 1   |       |     |                 |
| Sandwich,                    | 1843            | 7   | 1843           | 7   | 15                 | 86  | 180                   | 45  | 0                 |     |                         |     |            |     |          |     | 7         | 10  |       |     | 118             |
| † Montelona,                 | 1842            | 13  | 1843           | 24  | 3                  | 14  | 50                    | 6   |                   |     |                         |     |            |     |          |     |           | 2   |       |     |                 |
| Kaneville,                   |                 | 10  | 1843           | 15  | 15                 | 73  | 160                   | 52  | 36                |     |                         |     |            |     |          |     | 2         | 6   |       |     | 79              |
| Naperville,                  | 1843            | 6   | 1844           | 29  | 14                 | 74  | 162                   | 49  | 31                |     |                         |     |            |     |          |     | 23        | 17  |       |     | 48              |
| † Tabernacle, Chicago.       | 1843            | 62  | 1844           | 108 | 2                  | 22  | 108                   | 28  |                   |     |                         |     |            |     |          |     | 12        | 3   |       |     |                 |
| Pavilion,                    | 1844            | 44  | 1844           | 66  | 14                 | 85  | 193                   | 99  | 0                 |     |                         |     |            |     |          |     | 32        | 27  |       |     | 79              |
| Newark,                      | 1844            | 13  | 1844           | 23  | 14                 | 104 | 193                   | 76  | 13                |     |                         |     |            |     |          |     | 20        | 8   |       |     | 89              |
| † East Prairie,              |                 |     | 1844           | 14  | 2                  | 1   | 6                     |     |                   |     |                         |     |            |     |          |     |           |     |       |     |                 |
| Aurora,                      |                 |     | 1844           | 23  | 6                  | 0   | 38                    | 9   |                   |     |                         |     |            |     |          |     | 4         | 4   |       |     |                 |
| Aurora,                      | 1851            | 18  | 1852           | 2   | 6                  | 177 | 355                   | 140 | 44                |     |                         |     |            |     |          |     | 21        | 9   |       |     | 159             |
| Lockport,                    | 1844            | 21  | 1844           | 33  | 14                 | 30  | 84                    | 29  | 7                 |     |                         |     |            |     |          |     | 8         | 10  |       |     | 51              |
| † Babcock's Grove,           |                 |     | 1845           | 27  | 1                  | 0   | 3                     |     |                   |     |                         |     |            |     |          |     |           |     |       |     |                 |
| Union Grove,                 |                 |     | 1845           | 11  | 1                  | 0   | 3                     |     |                   |     |                         |     |            |     |          |     |           |     |       |     |                 |
| † Albion,                    |                 |     | 1845           | 15  | 1                  | 0   | 0                     |     |                   |     |                         |     |            |     |          |     |           |     |       |     |                 |
| † Waukegan,                  | 1846            | 12  | 1846           | 17  | 0                  | 3   | 5                     |     |                   |     |                         |     |            |     |          |     |           |     |       |     |                 |
| Washington,                  |                 |     | 1846           | 18  | 0                  | 0   | 1                     | 7   |                   |     |                         |     |            |     |          |     | 2         | 2   |       |     |                 |
| Oswego,                      | 1848            | 10  | 1848           | 10  | 10                 | 42  | 84                    | 38  | 14                |     |                         |     |            |     |          |     | 7         | 2   |       |     | 33              |
| Big Rock,                    | 1850            | 10  | 1850           | 20  | 8                  | 26  | 44                    | 5   | 4                 |     |                         |     |            |     |          |     | 2         | 2   |       |     | 41              |
| Downer's Grove,              | 1851            |     | 1852           | 34  | 6                  | 24  | 50                    | 13  | 3                 |     |                         |     |            |     |          |     | 3         | 2   |       |     | 63              |
| Momence,                     | 1852            | 16  | 1854           | 28  | 4                  | 18  | 47                    | 9   | 3                 |     |                         |     |            |     |          |     | 1         | 5   |       |     | 57              |
| Twelve Mile Grove,           | 1854            | 9   | 1855           | 10  | 3                  | 4   | 19                    | 8   | 0                 |     |                         |     |            |     |          |     | 1         | 2   |       |     | 18              |
| Morris,                      | 1854            | 10  | 1855           | 19  | 3                  | 6   | 65                    | 17  | 1                 |     |                         |     |            |     |          |     |           | 3   |       |     | 54              |
| Little Rock,                 |                 | 10  | 1856           | 10  | 2                  | 4   | 10                    | 3   | 1                 |     |                         |     |            |     |          |     |           |     |       |     | 18              |
| Norman,                      |                 | 13  | 1856           | 26  | 2                  | 33  | 52                    | 1   | 0                 |     |                         |     |            |     |          |     | 1         |     |       |     | 63              |
| German,                      | 1855            | 5   | 1856           | 11  | 2                  | 11  | 15                    | 3   | 2                 |     |                         |     |            |     |          |     |           |     |       |     | 15              |
| Edina Place, Chicago,        | 1856            | 19  | 1857           | 90  | 1                  | 63  | 161                   | 18  | 0                 |     |                         |     |            |     |          |     | 1         | 1   |       |     | 160             |
| Somonauk,                    | 1857            |     | 1857           | 18  | 1                  | 2   | 10                    | 1   | 5                 |     |                         |     |            |     |          |     |           |     |       |     | 22              |
| Evanston,                    | 1858            | 6   | 1858           | 6   | 0                  |     |                       |     |                   |     |                         |     |            |     |          |     |           |     |       |     | 6               |
| Union, Aurora,               | 1857            | 27  | 1858           | 109 | 0                  | 49  | 86                    | 2   |                   |     |                         |     |            |     |          |     | 1         |     |       |     | 109             |
| Lisbon,                      | 1858            | 29  | 1858           | 37  | 0                  |     | 9                     |     |                   |     |                         |     |            |     |          |     | 1         |     |       |     | 37              |

From the above table it appears that

FIFTY-FOUR CHURCHES have belonged to this Association, of which Aurora has been dissolved and organized once, and Joliet church twice: both are now members of the body, and in a prosperous condition.

TWO CHURCHES have become extinct—1st DuPage and Jackson's Grove.

FOUR CHURCHES have been dropped—Prophet's Town, Fairfield, Washington, and Union Grove. Nothing more of their history is known to the writer.

FOUR CHURCHES have been dismissed to other Associations; Vermillionville, Rochester, Belvidere and Paw Paw.

SIXTEEN CHURCHES formed the Chicago Association, which was duly organized at Dundee, May 1847. The names of these churches are marked thus † in the table.

TWENTY-EIGHT CHURCHES now belong to Fox River Association.

The table also shows that 2,433 have been added to the churches by baptism, and 5,707 from all sources; that the whole time the churches have existed, from their origin till June 1858, amounts to 426 years. The sum of the pastoral labor they have enjoyed during that time (as appears from table I.) amounts to about 240 years; just as if one church had been organized 426 years, and had had a pastor only 240 years of that time, which is less than seven months per annum. If on the contrary, we reckon the time in which there was *no* pastoral labor performed, it will amount to an aggregate of 186 years, or more than five twelfths of the time. This great destitution has not been equalized among the churches; for while large ones have been well supplied, small and feeble churches have been left to languish for the want of pastoral labor.

*Note.*—It appears from the Minutes of the Association, that the changes of membership reported by the churches from year to year, frequently disagree with former reports, and with the total number of members also. These discrep-

ancies, in so far as they relate to churches now belonging to this body, are inserted in the column headed "dropped." A cypher in that column denotes the reckoning to be correct; i. e., that the several alterations agree with the sum total or present number of members. The church at Aurora reported 44 dropped, and is therefore correct. The 1st Church Chicago has lost 115, of which only 52 are published, "dropped" in the minutes. Little Rock has gained one; the other churches have *lost* the number indicated by the figures set opposite their names in said column, i. e. their present number is so much too small to agree with the published alterations, making a loss in the whole Association of 223 members.

Although some of the discrepancies may be owing to typographical errors, yet it is to be feared that the greatest number of them have arisen from carelessness in keeping a list of names, and in making up reports to the Association; for the returns of some of the churches *frequently* conflict with preceding ones.



## RECAPITULATORY AND CLOSING REMARKS.

Our description of the country and its inhabitants is ended. The record of events in the history of this body is finished. The sketch comprehends the whole period from the time Brother Freeman stood alone, the only messenger of truth in our denomination in all Northern Illinois, to the present time. The first Baptist church he organized consisted of twelve members only. This little one has become



a thousand. Or as may be said in allusion to Ezekiel's vision of waters issuing out from under the threshold of the house; it has become a river broad and deep; a river that could not be passed over.

In the introduction we glanced hastily over a much larger territory, than has ever been occupied by the Fox River Association, though the Convention that formed it intended it provisionally to embrace not Northern Illinois only, but the Wisconsin Territory and a part of Indiana. But as new churches were constituted in places remote from the centre of the body, other Associations were organized. Hence no church in Indiana, and only one in Wisconsin ever united with it. Three churches in this State far from the centre of the body were members of it; but their connection with it was of so short duration that neither of them is included within the following estimate of its limits.

The Association has comprehended the following counties and parts of counties—Cook, Lake, McHenry, Boone, Du Page, Will, and Kendall, also a part of DeKalb, Grundy, and Kankakee. At the present time the Fox River and Chicago Associations, and a few of the churches connected with the Rock River Association, are within the bounds of the Old Northern Association as thus described.

After examining and collating a large number of statistical tables, the writer sets down the population of the foregoing territory at 18,000 when the Association was organized, (September 1835,) and 230,000 in 1858. There were 120 Associated Baptists in 1835, and 4,756 in 1858, within these counties. Hence the proportion in 1835 was *one* Baptist to every 150 of the entire population, and in 1858 the proportion was one to fifty. This shows a very encouraging

gain of Baptists upon the entire population during the last twenty-three years. The majority of this increase has, however, been by letter, so that the number *baptized* has but little more than kept pace with the rapid increase of population. Hence the Baptists must become more efficient, else the world will not soon, if ever, be subdued to Christ through their instrumentality, provided this is a fair specimen of their aggressive movements.

#### LOCATION AND PRESENT EXTENT OF FOX RIVER ASSOCIATION.

The Old "Northern Association" was divided by a line, beginning at the east end of Washington street, Chicago, thence running due west to the western extremity of the body. The Fox River Association lies south of this line, and includes about one half of the above described area, and probably about the same proportion of the population. The churches composing it are in the south part of the counties of Cook, DuPage and Kane; the southeast part of DeKalb; the north part of Grundy and Kankakee, including the counties of Kendall and Will.

#### THE CONTRAST BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 1835, AND JUNE 1858.

At the first session of this Association, September 1835, it consisted of only four churches.

At the session in June 1858, twenty-eight churches were connected with it.

THEN the churches contained 120 members.

NOW the membership is 2,333.

THEN four pastors belonged to the body.

Now it has twenty-one Pastors, eleven ministers without charge, and one licentiate.

THEN thirteen messengers including Pastors represented the churches ;

Now eighty-one messengers, including Pastors, appear on the minutes of this year.

THEN *no* visiting brethren, in the ministry were present ;

Now four were present. When roads are good and weather favorable the number of visiting brethren is much larger.

THEN the meeting was held in a small lone school-house.

Now in a spacious church edifice in a stirring village.

THEN the mode of traveling was mostly in double lumber wagons ;

Now in neat comfortable carriages and by Railroad.

THEN the streams were unbridged, sloughs nearly impassable, and the messengers of the churches not unfrequently greatly fatigued and in a muddy plight ;

Now streams are bridged, roads greatly improved, and the messengers and people come together under comfortable circumstances.

THEN an exorbitant price was paid for lodging on the bar-room floor of a log tavern ;

Now hotels are numerous, accommodations good and prices fair.

THEN churches gave their pastors a salary, from \$50 to \$100 per annum ;

Now their salaries are from four to six hundred dollars in small villages and rural districts, and much larger in cities.

THEN some secular employment was *necessarily* connected with the pastorate to eke out a scanty salary, unless aided by some Missionary Board;

Now *rarely*, except as a matter of choice, *not of necessity*.

THEN there were *no* church edifices;

Now there are twenty in this Association alone, varying in cost from \$2,000 to \$25,000 each.

### PROGRESS OF BAPTIST PRINCIPLES.

The Sangamon was the most northern Baptist Association in the State till this was organized. In 1858 there were *nine* Associations north of the Sangamon, containing a membership of 13,832; *Five* of which—The Fox River, Rock River, Chicago, Ottawa, and Union Associations are included within a smaller territory than was at first embraced by this Association. They contain 108 churches, about 100 ministers, and 8,089 members; having received more than 8,000 by baptism.

### CONCLUSION.

In the light of this historical sketch, we look back to the summer of 1833, when the population was exceedingly sparse, and when there was only here and there a solitary Baptist to be found—*no* Baptist church and but *one* Baptist minister in all Northern Illinois. In a short time after Bro. Freeman arrived a church was organized at O'Plain, (Hadley,) with twelve members, and the following week another was organized at Chicago with fifteen members. In 1834 *three* more ministers arrived, and *three* new churches were gathered and duly organized. But the bright and encouraging prospects were suddenly beclouded by the death of

Bro. Freeman, who at the close of the year, after having assisted at the organization of Five churches in this new and inviting field, was, after a very brief illness, called to his reward above.

In 1835 one of the ministers left the field for a time, and three others arrived. This brings into the formation of the Association by a Convention of four pastors and nine messengers, representing four newly organized churches, containing a membership of 120. He, whose kingdom ruleth over all, and who hath determined the bounds of their habitation, brought these disciples together from various and distant parts of the world. They met in a lone school-house, in structure and finish but little surpassing the one described in the "Introduction" to this history. Their number was small. Nor were they the messengers of large and influential churches, apparently able to sustain them in this new enterprize. The difficulties in their pathway were numerous and great. Their place of meeting was lowly; but their object lofty. Nothing less than the subjugation of the world to Christ; or as they expressed it: "To aid in the promotion of the spread of the Gospel, and the establishment of the Kingdom of Christ within its own borders and throughout the world." A gigantic enterprise to be undertaken by such a handful of disciples. But going at the bidding of the Master, and laboring in his name, few as they were, a glorious harvest has been gathered, partly by themselves, and more by their successors. Thus verifying the saying—"one soweth and another reapeth."

*Twenty* churches containing more than 1,000 members, with ten or twelve pastors, have gone from the body into other Associations; but it now consists of twenty-eight



churches, containing 2,333 members, having twenty-one pastors, one licentiate, and about a dozen other ministers.

Wonderful are the improvements everywhere to be met with throughout the country. To say nothing of canals, railroads, and the springing up of villages and cities, as by magic ; we see this wilderness blossoming as the rose, prejudices giving way, society compacted, learning promoted, churches formed, Sabbath schools established, converts multiplied, numerous church edifices erected, convenient in size and neat in structure ; the ministry greatly strengthened in number, learning and influence ; so that if vital piety does but advance in equal ratio, victory must soon turn on the side of Zion.

Whenever the pioneer looks back over this most interesting field and calls to mind former days ; he involuntarily exclaims : " What hath God wrought ? " while with the tear of penitence, that he has done so little for the Master, is mingled the tear of joy, that the Master has done so much for us.

## A P P E N D I X .

1859.

A sketch of the anniversary of this year is added as an appendix to what was previously prepared for the press, to save the reconstruction of the tables and the rewriting of much other matter.

On the first and second days of June, the Twenty-fourth anniversary of the body was held at Bristol—a small village on the northern bank of Fox River, Kendall Co.

The scene was pleasing to all; but doubly delightful and deeply affecting to the few who were there at the session of 1846, when the Association was divided. The village; the condition and prospects of the church; the neat, new and commodious church edifice, filled with attentive and devout worshippers, were objects of great interest, and stood in such striking contrast with what was to be seen and enjoyed, when the body last met there, (1846,) as to call forth the exclamation, "What hath God wrought!"

The weather was fine—the attendance large—the religious services unusually sweet and edifying. Harmony and brotherly love characterized the session in an eminent degree. It was in very deed a holy convocation, graced by the presence of the Master, and thus rendered joyous and profitable to all.

The opening sermon was preached by Pastor W. D.

Clark of Morris, from Eph. 2: 12, latter clause. Pastor C. Button of Aurora, Moderator, and Pastor R. A. Clapp of Sandwich, Clerk.

*One* new church was received—Plano, organized June 7th, 1858, with sixteen members. D. N. Kinnie, Pastor.


The church at Little Rock, having disbanded by mutual consent, was dropped. Twenty-eight churches, twenty-six ministers, and one hundred and fourteen baptized.

The letter from the Somonauk German Church contained an interesting and affecting account of themselves; and of the labors, protracted illness and death of their worthy and beloved Pastor, Rev. Charles West.

The following resolution was made in reference to the late Rev. C. A. West:

*Whereas*, The great head of the Church has been pleased in His all-wise Providence, to remove our dear Bro. West, pastor of the Somonauk German Baptist Church, from his labors on earth to the rest and bliss of Heaven. Therefore,

*Resolved*, That we hereby tender to his afflicted family, and the dear brethren of the church to which he ministered, our sincere sympathies, and pray that God in His rich grace may abundantly sustain them.



## TIMES AND PLACES OF ANNIVERSARIES.

|                         |                        |                  |           |
|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------|-----------|
| 1835, September 15,     | Association organized, | DuPage, Cook Co. | Page 16   |
| 1836, Sept. 21st, 22d,  | First anniversary,     | Chicago,         | 20        |
| 1837, October,          | Second                 | Plainfield,      | 23        |
| 1838, Oct. 3d, 4th,     | Third                  | Warrenville,     | 23        |
| 1839, Oct. 4th, 5th,    | Fourth                 | Elgin,           | 25        |
| 1840, Oct. 7th, 8th,    | Fifth                  | Bristol,         | 27        |
| 1841, June 2d, 3d,      | Sixth                  | Plainfield,      | 28        |
| 1842, June 1st, 2d, 3d, | Seventh                | Warrenville,     | 29        |
| 1843, June 7th, 8th,    | Eighth                 | Batavia,         | 33        |
| 1844, June 5th, 6th,    | Ninth                  | Chicago,         | 36        |
| 1845, June 4th, 5th,    | Tenth                  | Elgin,           | 39        |
| 1846, †June, 3d, 4th,   | Eleventh               | Bristol,         | 44        |
| 1847, June 2d, 3d,      | Twelfth                | Plainfield,      | 47        |
| 1848, June 7th, 8th,    | Thirteenth             | Chicago,         | 48        |
| 1849, June 6th, 7th,    | Fourteenth             | Long Grove,      | 49        |
| 1850, June 5th, 6th,    | Fifteenth              | Naperville,      | 50        |
| 1851, June 4th, 5th,    | Sixteenth              | Batavia,         | 51        |
| 1852, June 2d, 3d,      | Seventeenth            | Newark,          | 51        |
| 1853, June 1st, 2d,     | Eighteenth             | Aurora,          | 52        |
| 1854, June 7th, 8th,    | Nineteenth             | Oswego,          | 55        |
| 1855, June 6th, 7th,    | Twentieth              | Lockport,        | 57        |
| 1856, †June 4th, 5th,   | Twenty-first           | Kaueville,       | 58        |
| 1857, June 3d, 4th,     | Twenty-second          | Sandwich,        | 59        |
| 1858, June 2d, 3d,      | Twenty-third           | Plainfield,      | 60        |
| 1859, June 1st, 2d,     | Twenty-fourth          | Bristol,         | Appendix. |

† The *time* of holding the session in 1846, and 1856, is corrected in the above table.

## ERRATA.

- 4th page—For “L. D. Boon” read L. D. Boone.  
 15th page—14th line, for “sama” read same.  
 18th page—15th line, for “thnt” read that.  
 19th page—18th line, for “snip” read nip.  
 24th page—2d line, for “Charlerton” read Charleston.  
 25th page—22d line, for “J. W. Elmore” read D. W. Elmore.  
 32d page—11th line, for “Sylla” read Seylla.  
 40th page—5th line, for “letter” read letters.  
 49th page—21st line, for “commend” read commenced.  
 49th page—last line, for “spirit’s” read Spirit’s.  
 50th page—13th line, for “entire” read entirely.  
 60th page—15th line, for “Twenty churches” read Twenty-eight churches.  
 63d page—8th line in list of Pastors, for “J. F. Hinton” read I. T. Hinton.
- A few other errors exist which need no explanation.











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